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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
How would you describe your level of understanding of federalization as it applies to labor in the CNMI?

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INSIDE

Saipan Talent
Cloency Zuriel Ycoy Chua makes it to the magic 3 at the Tumon Bay Music Festival.

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Asia Trip
Obama's second trip to Asia could be an important step in restoring U.S. influence in the region.

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Unlikely Muse
David Beckham has become an unlikely muse to Britain's poet laureate.

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SHRM MEETING STRENGTHENS DIFFERENCES IN Q&A

From left, Federal Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown, CNMI Attorney General Edward Buckingham, and David Gulick, district director of the Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, during yesterday's monthly meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Courts may resolve conflicting views between feds, local govt

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A federal court may eventually have to resolve the conflicting views between the CNMI and the federal governments on the umbrella permit and authority over nonresident workers, said participants in yesterday's monthly meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter.

See COURTS on Page 4

Former governor Juan N. Babauta and Rep. Ramon Tebuteb share some thoughts during last night's meeting of the Republican Party at Garapan Central Park. MONETH G. DEPOSA

Ex-gov Babauta to run for delegate

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Former Gov. Juan Nekai Babauta has formally submitted his letter of intent to run for the U.S. Delegate post under the Republican Party banner.

In a GOP meeting held last night at Garapan Central Park, Babauta confirmed his intention to run for the position but

See BABAUTA on Page 4

"You continue to drive business and now even God away, and seem destined to create your own Business Ghost Island."
—Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan)

'Zoning forced church to shut down'

» Zoning Office says allegations untrue
» Torres threatens suspending zoning law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

RELATED NEWS
- Zoning workshops held to explain Saipan 2008 Zoning Law. **PAGE 16**

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) threatened yesterday to have the Saipan Zoning Act of 2008 suspended over the Zoning Office's treatment of the New Beginnings Ministries International Church, which he said forced the church to shut down in February.

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DPS to go after 255 gun owners with expired permits. PAGE 16
Next of kin claims body of tourist killed in car accident. PAGE 19

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Local

$8,000 cash bail for ex-Rep. Castro

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court imposed yesterday an $8,000 cash bail for the temporary release of former congressman Pedro P. Castro, who was arrested for allegedly cultivating marijuana and illegally possessing a gun.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona found probable cause that the warrantless arrest of the 63-year-old Castro was lawful.

Manglona reached the decision after listening to the testimony of detective Sean White and arguments by assistant attorney general William Downer and assistant public defender Richard Miller.

Manglona appointed the Office of Public Defender to represent Castro.

Castro

The judge set the preliminary hearing for March 25 at 9am.

Castro is facing charges of trafficking of a controlled substance, illegal possession of a firearm, and illegal possession/manufacturing of marijuana.

Detective White testified how members of the Department of Public Safety and CNMI Customs Joint Drug Enforcement Task Force conducted surveillance operations on Tuesday and Wednesday at the farm of Castro in Marpi after receiving information that the defendant has been cultivating and selling marijuana.

White said that when Castro arrived at his farm on Wednesday morning, he was seen arranging the marijuana plants and mumbling something to the plants.

The defendant then noticed somebody in the jungle after hearing some noise, White said.

At that time, members of the Task Force approached and started questioning Castro.

At first, the detective said, Castro alleged that some strangers may have planted the marijuana, but later admitted planting them when one officer informed him he was seen arranging the plants and mumbling something.

White said the task force found 41 marijuana plants and recovered a .410 shotgun from a shack in the farm.

White said during a subsequent search at Castro's residence in San Antonio, task force members seized 21 bags of packed marijuana, consistent with the information that the defendant has been selling the illegal drugs.

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NEW AUSTERITY MEASURE

70 hours per payday, with paid holidays

» Officials urged to waive 12.5 percent of their salaries

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Both civil and excepted service government employees, as well as autonomous agency and federally funded workers, are covered by a new proposal to reduce government work hours from 80 to 70 per payday for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010 but they will continue to be paid during CNMI legal holidays.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon Basa's House Bill 17-45, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, also encourages members of the Legislature, the governor, the lieutenant governor, justices and judges to waive 12.5 percent of their salaries and donate them to the general fund.

The 12.5 percent is equivalent to 10 hours of work per pay period.

Basa (Cov-Saipan) said his new austerity bill aims to minimize any adverse impact on the government's ability to provide services by maintaining daily, albeit shortened, government operations.

Instead of eight hours a day, government offices will be open only seven hours a day, from 8:30am to 4:30pm., as Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos earlier recommended.

Current government work hours are from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

But Basa's bill provides for flexibility by allowing agency heads to reasonably deviate from the proposed 8:30am to 4:30pm schedule, depending on their agencies' particular needs, but still subject to the 70-hour limitation per payday.

House Minority Leader Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said yesterday that he continues to oppose the bill, adding that most members of the minority bloc also oppose the measure.

Republican members said there are other ways to cut the budget shortfall, including not funding non-essential government offices for the remainder of the fiscal year and moving those funds to critical services like health, education and public safety. They also called for a desk audit to determine whether the government is indeed bloated as perceived. Republicans also asked for a budget summit, to get the input of all sectors of the community on how to solve the government's financial woes.

Besides constitutionally protected jobs, the only other exemptions allowed by the austerity bill are for immediate health and safety positions, such as doctors and police officers.

H.B. 17-45 also allows the governor to exempt employees but only if the House and the Senate pass a joint resolution by a majority vote of each body, when reducing work hours prejudices receipt of federal funds.

All new contracts for government employees are also supposed to reflect 70 hours per pay period for the remainder of FY 2010.

Basa's bill also implements a hiring freeze, except for emergency positions.

The new austerity bill gives authority to the Public School System commissioner and/or Board of Education to ensure that public schools meet federally determined education mandates.

Government travels are restricted, except those for immediate health and safety related reasons. Also exempted are official travels by the governor, lieutenant governor, members of the Legislature but will need certification from the presiding officers, and those necessary for the coverage of judicial proceedings.

The austerity measure, if enacted into law, will expire on Sept. 30, 2010, or earlier as provided by law.

The Finance secretary is required to report any savings realized as a result of the measure to the Legislature every quarter.

The Fitial administration pushed for the work hour cut after projected revenue for Fiscal Year 2010 was revised to $137 million.

See PAYDAY on Next Page

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17 SIS students inducted to 2 national honor societies

Saipan International School held its National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony on March 16, 2010, at American Memorial Park theater.

The National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society are the nation's premier organizations established to recognize outstanding high school and middle level students.

NHS and NJHS have very stringent membership requirements. To be considered, students must have at least 3.7 GPA and must go through a rigorous selection process. The candidates are evaluated on the basis of character, leadership and service to the school and the community, and a five-member faculty council decides the admission of the candidates.

Tuesday's one-hour program began with the lighting of the white candle. Led by formally dressed NHS and NJHS members, seven NJHS and 10 NHS inductees entered the theater, received their candles, recited the pledges, and joined the honor societies.

Headmaster Dr. Dale Jenkins welcomed the parents, teachers, and guests, and spoke briefly about the honor societies. Adviser Ingur Lee spoke about the five ideals of the NHS and presented the candidates, and members welcomed the new members to the societies by passing the lighted candles to them and congratulating them.

For school year 2009-10, Saipan International School added Kennedy Izuka, Hunter Jewell, Dan Hee Kim, Nava Khorram, Andrea Loste, Kaylene Reyes, and Seoung Joon Lee to NJHS and Ryun Ha, Dong Keun Hong, Amelia Hudkins, Zoe Jewell, Jian Joyner, Min Joo Jung, Mi Lin Kim, Amber Roberts, Kai Staal, and Svahn Tured to NHS.

To maintain membership, the new members must maintain the high standards and participate in a service project. For this year, NJHS and NHS members of SIS have been assisting the schoolwide Accelerated Reading Program by labeling and cataloging the library books. ***(PR)***

ZONING

From Page 1

"You continue to drive business and now even God away, and seem destined to create your own 'Business Ghost Island,'" Torres said in a March 18 letter to Zoning board chair Herminia Fusco and acting Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro.

Torres said he is "very disturbed" by the actions taken by the Saipan Zoning Office toward the New Beginnings Ministries International Church, and is protesting the office's "adverse action" against the church.

Ogumoro said the Zoning Office never issued adverse action against New Beginnings Ministries International Church.

"Their allegations are untrue," Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail response.

She said if Torres wants to effectively achieve solutions to problems and concerns, then he should face her directly and get his facts straight.

"Relying on the media to do this for him will just create more unnecessary harm to his stature as a lawmaker, to the zoning office as a regulatory agency, and to the general public as taxpayers. I'd reserve further comments on this issue until I issue my official response to his letters," Ogumoro said.

Rev. Paula N. Kalei, founder and senior pastor of New Beginnings Ministries International Church, wrote a March 15 letter to Torres to express her "trauma and distress" over the zoning law and the alleged ill-treatment she got from the Zoning Office.

In the first week of February, the church was asked to vacate the Ladera Center along Beach Road because the Department of Public Lands was going to occupy 11 stalls and did not want to be next to a church, said Kalei.

Within days, Kalei said, they moved the church to her home in As Lito which is quite large, until she could find another suitable place of worship.

Because the church's business license expired, she applied to renew it. She said she was told at the Business Licensing Office to get a clearance from the Zoning Office, and "that is when the turmoil and distress started."

She said she waited patiently for the first hour and when the male clerk helped her, he had to go to lunch and informed her that she needed to have consent from the Zoning Commission because she's living in a residential area. Her home is owned by Stanley Torres Jr. and Juanny Torres, who reside in Guam. Stanley Torres Jr. is the son of Rep. Stanley Torres.

Kalei said she was asked to go back to the waiting area and she would be seen by the acting supervisor "who is a woman." She said she waited for another hour and both the supervisor and the male clerk asked her whose house she's living in. She again said Stanley Torres Jr. and got a similar response, before she was asked to wait some more.

"The final synopsis from all three people in zoning is: if I wanted to have a church in my home, I needed to prepare photos, legal documents and applications which must be viewed and approved by the zoning office before it could go to the zoning commission for approval and that is no guarantee. Also, I was told it could take months," Kalei told lawmaker.

Kalei said she has since closed down New Beginnings Ministries International Church when the congregation was 95 percent Chamorro and Carolinians.

"The congregation was hurt and disappointed, and is now seeking new direction for their spiritual needs. As for me, this entire move has been a trauma. I've lost $1,000 deposit because I was forced to break my lease agreement," she said.

Kalei said she sold all her household goods to afford moving to Guam.

"May God Himself have mercy on the CNMI. I do not need approval from a zoning committee to preach the Gospel. I have been approved and ordained by God since 1995," Kalei told Torres, who has a pending bill suspending the Saipan Zoning Act.

Torres said Kalei left for Guam on Tuesday.

PAYDAY

From Page 3

The original estimated resource for FY 2010 was $150.500 million, with $148,083,551 to be spent for government operations.

Due to a projected decline in revenue, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial adjusted this amount to $137,350,000, representing a 7.25 percent reduction that he said "must be absorbed by the budget authority remaining for the fiscal year."

The House is set to hold a session this afternoon, and Basa is expected to formally introduce his bill.

Basa's original austerity measure, H.B. 17-22, wanted to cut government work hours from 80 to 72 per payday or a government shutdown of one day per pay period. But the House filed the standing committee report recommending its passage, effectively killing the bill. Basa then pre-filed another austerity bill on Tuesday.

BABAUTA

From Page 1

opted not to further comment pending the official decision of the party.

"I can tell you that I have submitted my letter of intent to the party," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Acting Republican Party president Juan L. Babauta told members at the meeting that they have received only one letter of intent so far. Other party members also confirmed that it was only Babauta who has so far turned in a letter of intent.

Party member Juan Cabrera said that majority of party members support the former governor due to his experience. Babauta served as the CNMI's Washington Representative for many years prior to becoming the island's governor.

"He's been there in the position for several years and he has a great knowledge on federal dealings. We will support him all the way," Cabrera said, adding that majority of members are vocal in their desire to have Babauta run for the position.

Another party member, Roman Tudela, expressed support for the former governor. "For us, he's the best man for the job," he said.

Although the party has yet to name or endorse an official candidate, many believe that Babauta would likely get the party's approval.

Acting party president Juan L. Babauta refused to comment pending the official party decision.

Officials of the group decided to call for another meeting next week to continue the meeting's agenda, which includes the election of new officers and adoption of bylaws.

Cabrera is confident that the GOP, this time, will emerge victorious. "Mr. Babauta is more than qualified to run for the post…and this time GOP will prevail," Cabrera said.

The GOP standard bearer Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios lost to Covenant Party candidates Benigno Fitial and Eloy Inos in the November 2009 general election.

Besides Babauta, two other individuals have already signified their intent to run in the upcoming November election: incumbent Gregorio Kilili Sablan and Covenant Party's Joseph Camacho.

Besides being the governor and Washington representative, Babauta is also a former health planner for the Trust Territory in 1977; executive director for the Commonwealth Health Planning and Development Agency in 1986; and senator in the fifth and sixth legislatures.

At the end of his term as senator, Babauta was elected as Resident Representative to the United States, a position he served for three four-year terms.

He was elected governor of the CNMI in November 2001.

COURTS

From Page 1

As expected, the federal and local governments differed in their perspectives on the so-called umbrella permits, as already delineated by separate questions-and-answers documents released recently by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service and the Fitial administration.

At the SHRM meeting, Federal Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown and David Gulick, district director of the Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, represented the federal government, while CNMI Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham represented the local government.

An SHRM member asked whether the federal and local governments would get together to iron out the differences in their perspectives on umbrella permits and authority over alien employment in the CNMI.

"My concern is, you're not going to. You will continue to leave it up to the employers, and the attorneys and the court, which I find unacceptable," the SHRM member said.

Both federal officials encouraged employers to consult with their own counsels.

"Being a federal official, I would recommend the federal position be followed. But then again, we would urge people…to contact their legal counsels and make that determination. Case law is clear. All attorneys here can access case laws," Brown said.

Buckingham, Brown and Gulick said they would work cooperatively as much as possible but there's no mechanism set up as yet to reconcile the differences in federal and local views on alien employment in the CNMI.

The three also said they hope the differences in perspectives will not reach the courts.

The CNMI attorney general advised individuals to continue to comply with the conditions that were established in the umbrella permits, "and to work cooperatively with the Department of Labor."

The local and federal officials expounded on and made use of their respective questions-and-answers documents to answer most of the questions posed by SHRM guests and members in the monthly meeting at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

Buckingham maintained that the CNMI government retains authority to revoke umbrella permits and impose conditions on employment, but Brown said the local government lost its authority over these matters.

"The employment of aliens is a federal matter. That's the U.S. government's position," Brown said.

Brown, a former counsel to the governor during the Babauta administration, said the CNMI Department of Labor's role is now the same as any other state labor department, including enforcement of state minimum wage and enforcement of any contract they had approved.

"And of course, the very important role of training citizens and providing employment services to citizens," said Brown, the first federal labor ombudsman in the CNMI from 1999 to 2001. She came back to the post in 2009.

Brown reiterated the federal government's position that the CNMI lost jurisdiction over any alien employment effective Nov 28, 2009.

"You have to remember that umbrella permits basically didn't just provide authorization to work. They extended entry permits so, because labor and immigration has been so wrapped together in the CNMI, that seems to be the source of confusion," she added.

Buckingham encouraged nonresidents and employers to still comply with the conditions of their umbrella permits and to proceed to the CNMI Department of Labor for issues related to the umbrella permit, so as not to jeopardize their status.

But Brown said after Nov. 28, 2009, it is up to the federal government to decide what benefits to grant people. "We've determined that those benefits include work authorization until Nov. 27, 2011," she said.

'What if we don't have umbrella permits?'

Brown advised alien workers who have valid CNMI entry/work permits but do not have umbrella permits to visit the Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office.

Gulick said those who do not have valid work permits and umbrella permits should plan on leaving the CNMI as soon as they can so as not to accrue what is known as unlawful presence in the United States.

However, if an alien without umbrella permit is eligible for an H1 or H2 visa, then their employer should begin the process of applying for such a visa.

SHRM president Eric Plinske said local and federal officials recognize the need for them to get together or employers and employees will continue to be confused as to which one to follow.

"A lot of it has to do with those who have umbrella permits that expire. Do they need to go back to the local labor or do they need not? Federal says no, and says deal with the federal side. And local government says you still need to come in and verify your obligations under that permit," he said.

The Fitial administration said some answers provided by USCIS in its Q&A are inconsistent with the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

"Many Commonwealth employers already have approved employment contracts in place with the foreign workers they employ. All of these employment arrangements must be honored and cannot be disturbed by federal officials," it said.

Some employer representatives at the SHRM meeting said they would still continue to go to the Labor Department until USCIS final regulations are issued.

Gulick said the final regulations on the transitional worker program and the investor program are expected to be issued this year.

CUC eyes settlement with EPA on $14M penalties

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. plans to negotiate with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in settling over $4 million in accrued penalties incurred as a result of non-compliance with stipulated orders.

CUC executive director Tony Muña said Wednesday the corporation will exercise all rights it may have—including negotiation—to resolve the issue with the federal agency.

"On the $4 million accrued penalty, it will be a settlement issue [with EPA]. Once the billing is made, we will exercise whatever rights we may have in terms of trying to settle the amount," said Muña.

Muña expressed optimism that EPA will take into consideration the progress CUC has made in complying with the stipulated orders.

The stipulated orders—representing the agreement between the CNMI and EPA—set the benchmarks and deadlines that CUC must meet to comply with the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. The orders, signed in March 2009, provide a roadmap for improving water and sewer services in the CNMI.

Stipulated Order 1 requires CUC to hire the people it needs to ensure that it will be able to provide drinkable water and adequate wastewater services.

Stipulated Order 2 aims to provide for safe fuel storage, handling and transfer at all power generation facilities and power distribution system, including possible environmental site cleanup.

Muna said many of these concerns have already been addressed and are being resolved. He pointed out that CUC continues its efforts to move forward and provide quality service to people while complying with all rules and regulations.

"We're hoping—like in any situation—that EPA would continue to recognize the progress we are making at CUC because we haven't been sitting here and just looking at the problems. … We're making every effort to resolve them and be in compliance," he said.

He specifically cited the now sufficient chlorine supply on the islands, improvements in power generation, repairs, replacement, and the rehabilitation of dilapidated power and wastewater systems.

Muña explained that the imposition of EPA penalties contains two processes: accrual of penalties and assessment of penalties.

CUC, at this point, still has the opportunity to settle with the federal agency as penalties have yet to be assessed, he said.

Because of the multiple challenges on island that affect CUC operation, Muña hinted that full compliance with the stipulated orders may take up to 36 months.

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Fernandez's case costing NMC an additional $25K

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Besides paying for two presidents, the Northern Marianas College will be incurring additional costs in the form of a $25,000 contract with Cabot Mantanona from Guam—all arising from the suspension of Dr. Carmen Fernandez in January.

The hiring of Cabot Mantanona was confirmed, discussed, and clarified during Tuesday's special meeting of the Board of Regents.

It was learned that the board agreed to hire the services of the Guam-based law firm during prior executive sessions.

The law firm was hired on an "emergency basis" solely to handle one specific task: to provide both the college and the board with a second legal opinion on some "highly sensitive" matters.

Long-time NMC counsel Jessie Borja, however, continues to represent NMC for all other legal matters. He is paid about $40,000 annually for his services.

Cabot Mantanona's contract started on Feb. 24 and has a completion date of Aug. 23, 2010. The board approved a $175 per-hour pay rate for the law firm for the "preparation of documents and professional services," but capped total cost at $25,000.

The firm's expected professional services are for representation during pre-litigation negotiations in reference to the suspension and continued employment of Fernandez at NMC.

Fernandez was suspended on Jan. 12, 2010, pending the results of twin investigations against her for alleged changing of students' grades and other disputed personnel matters at the college.

The board has yet to decide on Fernandez's fate as the college is conducting its own fact-finding investigation. The Office of Attorney General has already turned over the results of its own investigation to the board.

Pelisamen claims abuse, harsh incarceration in Guam

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Convicted former estate administrator Luis Kaipat Pelisamen claims that since arriving in Guam on Jan. 29, he has received no medical treatment and is being subjected to harsh incarceration.

Pelisamen, through counsel Douglas Cushnie, cited the alleged abuse and denial of medical care as among the reasons why he should remain free pending his appeal of his conviction.

Cushnie said his client was unable to stand nor walk not long after being placed in custody. Cushnie said Pelisamen is confined to a wheelchair, but no treatment has been given.

He said Pelisamen's severe back pain, which requires surgery, was not treated. In fact, the lawyer said, Pelisamen has received no treatment for any of his previously diagnosed conditions, two of which require surgery.

"He is provided with one pair of clothing, which due to his bladder condition he soils regularly. He receives no clean clothing when this occurs," Cushnie said.

Cushnie said that when Pelisamen was taken to Guam on Jan. 29, he was told he was going to court. Pelisamen asked that he be allowed to talk to his lawyer because he was not well, but this was refused.

Instead, Cushnie said, Pelisamen was taken to the airport on his wheelchair and shipped to Guam.

The stated reason given by the U.S. Marshals Service was so Pelisamen could receive medical treatment.

"Since arrival on Guam, he has received no medical treatment, revealing that the USMS representations were and are false," Cushnie said.

He said there is no known reason why his client is being subjected to harsh incarceration in Guam.

"Since he is no flight risk and is not going to harm anyone and is receiving no medical care, it appears that the sole reason for Pelisamen being locked up in Guam is to subject him to some sort of extra-judicial punishment," the lawyer said.

In the U.S. government's response to the motion, assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler said Pelisamen has not met his burden to secure his release pending appeal.

Schuler said any questions regarding Pelisamen's detention and medical care in Guam can be answered at the hearing on the motion.

The prosecutor said the USMS has not subjected Pelisamen to any sort of "extra-judicial punishment," and it has not violated any court order in transferring the defendant to Guam for imprisonment and medical care.

Pelisamen used to serve as administrator of the estate of Rita Kaipa, which received $1.37 million in distribution. The U.S. government charged Pelisamen with unlawful use of estate funds.

On June 22, 2009, the federal jury found Pelisamen guilty of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and two counts of money laundering.

Munson sentenced Pelisamen to five years in prison and ordered him to pay $625,775 in restitution to the Rita Kaipat estate.

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Paradise Island Hospital is also fostering numerous beautiful and healthy puppies that are up for adoption. If you are interested in adopting or fostering any of the puppies, contact PAWS at 234-9669 or PIAH at 234-9669 or swing by and meet the pack.

White and orange puppies: PIAH has four white and orange puppies that are about 5-6 weeks of age that are ready for adoption. These little guys and gals are healthy and playful, and would make a perfect companion for older, more responsible children looking for a pet. These pups have been dewormed and treated for skin disease, including fleas and ticks.

Multi-colored family: PIAH is also fostering a perfectly tempered female dog, white and black with big ears, and her eight healthy puppies. The pups are black and tan, tan with black markings, and white with black markings. The pups have been dewormed and treated for fleas and ticks.

Note that the mother dog is in need of a responsible foster family that will help her put on some weight and regain her health. The puppies have, as they will do, drained mom of all fat and nutrients. So, for the next few weeks, PAWS would like to place mom in a home that will keep her safe and feed her regularly. If you are interested in fostering the mother dog, contact PIAH at 234-9669 or PAWS at 234-9669. ***(PAWS)***

2010 Fiestan San Isidro set tomorrow

San Isidro-Sainan Ina Pastor Monsignor Louis Antonelli, Fiesta chair Harold M. Manglona, Fiesta Committee, San Isidro-Sainan Ina Parish Council, and the people of Rota are inviting the public to "Bisita Luta" and join them celebrate and honor their patron saint, San Isidro, the "Saint of Farmers," tomorrow, March 20, 2010.

Today, there will be a Mass and Novena at 5pm, followed by the coronation of King Rudy I and Queen Rita I and their Royal Court. There will also be concessions, games, and entertainment.

On Saturday, Mass and procession is at 4pm followed by the fiesta dinner and drawing of raffle tickets.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 19, 1999

NMC retains 1 VP, 4 deans in shuffle

Under the new reorganization plan now being considered by the Board of Regents, the Northern Marianas College will have a single vice president and four deans. The plan was presented to the faculty members during the meeting called by President Agnes McPhetres last Tuesday afternoon. At present, NMC has three vice-presidents and one provost. There are also 17 deans leading the various programs at the college. In an interview, Board chairman Manuel Sablan is serious on introducing other reforms at NMC and in pursuing another reorganization plan the soonest time.

Reyes: Budget may slip below $200M level

The chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee yesterday warned spending level for the next fiscal year may plunge below the $200 million mark, saying department and agencies must submit a "realistic" budget package to live within the actual government revenues. Rep. Karl T. Reyes likewise expressed concern over reports that the garment industry anticipates sharp drop in production and income as a result of the $1 billion class action suit lodged against Saipan manufacturers and their US. buyers. Reacting to the administration's projection of its FY 2000 budget, the representative said it is unlikely that the government could still collect $206 million in revenues from the crisis-hit economy over the next few quarters.

March 19, 2001

Court mulls admission of drugs evidence

Presiding Superior Court Judge Edward Manibusan has taken under advisement a defense motion to suppress evidence collected from an acupuncture clinic which authorities had found carrying illegal substances. Defendant Xia Fu Gang through his counsel has motioned the court to throw out the evidence, arguing that a search warrant should have been obtained by the Department of Public Health prior to conducting the broad inspection last year. When DPH's Bureau of Environment Health searched the Chinese Acupuncture Clinic in May last year, inspectors found several items, including illegal drugs bottled in vitamin bottles, medical devices, and medical records showing treatment. These items were seized for evidence.

CPA intensifies efforts to seek funds for breakwater

The Commonwealth Ports Authority disclosed Friday that massive lobbying efforts are currently being undertaken in the US Congress to ensure funding for the Tinian and Rota breakwaters. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said initial appropriation of $150,000 from the Energy and Water Development Appropriation Act has been approved by the US Congress for the projects that will be carried out by the US Army Corps of Engineer. However, the reconnaissance study of US Army Corps of Engineer will only be undertaken to assess potential navigational improvements, shoreline protections and breakwater protection.

March 19, 2002

Camacho vows massive promotions

Public Safety Commissioner Edward C. Camacho is bent on handing out widespread promotions to deserving DPS employees in May 2002, a plan that he envisions would motivate employees into strengthening their commitment to the tasks they were set out to do. In a first step toward this direction, Camacho, at his swearing-in ceremony last Thursday, officially upgraded his appointed deputy commissioners, Sandy Tudela and Franklin Babauta, into colonel ranks. "In May, I will have a massive promotion for all the people who have met my requirements and the requirements of the DPS. We will have a promotion board and it will give the opportunity for everybody to submit applications," Camacho told reporters yesterday.

Babauta: Competitiveness is the key

To be competitive in the emerging global marketplace, the CNMI has to do two things: educate its workforce and improve its physical infrastructures. Improved tourism infrastructure and higher value-for-money for the CNMI's tourists would also go a long way toward ensuring the competitiveness of the local tourist industry. As for the Commonwealth's garment sector, it has to enhance its productivity in order to be competitive. These were just some of the pointers that Gov. Juan N. Babauta said were discussed during a forum on the foundations of economic competitiveness at the Harvard Business School's Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness that he had attended during his working visit to the U.S. mainland. The forum's speaker was Dr. Michael Porter.

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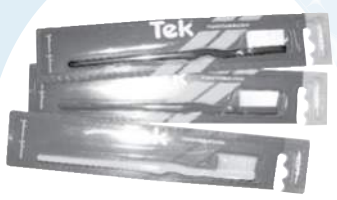

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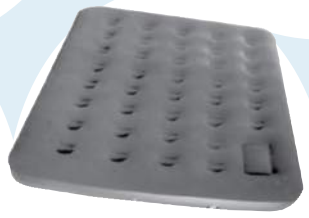

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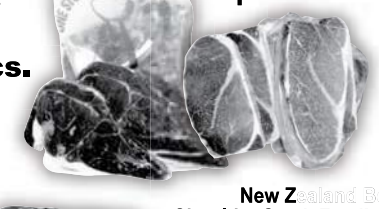

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EDITORIAL

America needs national debate on nuclear power

President Barack Obama's interest in nuclear power has kicked off a new national debate on the industry, and it's about time. The last U.S. nuclear power plant to be built came on line decades ago, and advances in technology since then make some earlier objections obsolete.

But two familiar issues remain: the overall cost of nuclear generation and the safe, long-term storage of waste. Obama and Congress need to resolve these challenges before making nuclear power a major part of a national energy policy designed to reduce the risk of climate change.

Even now, the United States produces more electricity from nuclear power plants than any other nation in the world. But the total output of the 104 reactors amounts to only 20 percent of the nation's electrical needs. Many European countries have been more aggressive in pursuing nuclear power, including France, which has 58 plants generating 76 percent of its power. Worldwide, there are just over 400 plants producing 15 percent of the world's energy.

Obama has backed away slightly from his campaign promise to "find ways to safely harness nuclear power." But nuclear power remains very much on the table. Some members of Congress advocate building up to an additional 100 nuclear power plants.

Construction costs are one barrier. It's interesting that Republicans are nuclear power's greatest proponents, given that federal loan guarantees of $10 billion to $17 billion per plant would have to be part of any deal. Obama is cautious about promising a huge investment, given the deficit, until more questions are resolved. The time it takes to build a plant adds to the challenge, since the makeup of Congress can shift significantly every two years, perhaps threatening support for plants already under construction.

The other major stumbling block is radioactive waste.

The 1986 Chernobyl disaster remains the only accident in commercial nuclear power involving fatalities. The development of smaller, simpler plants envisioned now should reduce the security concerns associated with the monster plants built 30 years ago. But the nagging problem of what to do with the waste remains.

Nevada's Yucca Mountain had been identified as a national repository for nuclear waste, but Obama has taken that off the table. Spent radioactive fuel rods now are stored at or near nuclear plants across the country, sometimes closer to water supplies than anyone would like. Each plant generates about 20 metric tons of radioactive waste every year. The cleanup of leaking tanks with radioactive contaminants at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in the state of Washington—situated precariously near the Columbia River—is estimated to cost a minimum of $77 billion and perhaps as much as $100 billion.

The United States has to develop alternative energy sources that will reduce reliance on Middle East oil and cut carbon emissions. Nuclear power needs to be back on the table—but a solution to waste storage must be found before new construction begins, and the revival of the industry must be proven cost effective.

(c) 2010, San Jose Mercury News

The medicalization of life

By H. GILBERT WELCH
Los Angeles Times

H. Gilbert Welch is an internist at the Department of Veterans Affairs in White River Junction, Vt., and professor of medicine at the Dartmouth Institute of Health Policy & Clinical Practice. He is the author of Should I Be Tested for Cancer? Maybe Not and Here's Why. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Here's a question that's not being asked in the health-care debate: How much medical care do we want in our lives? It's something we should be discussing.

Start with the two life events we all experience, birth and death.

My profession has gotten pretty good at terrifying (and operating on) pregnant women during what should be one of the greatest experiences in life. And we are equally proficient at dragging the elderly through all sorts of misery on the road to death.

Too harsh, you say?

Consider this. Two of the most common tests performed on pregnant American women are obstetrical ultrasound and electronic fetal monitoring. After reviewing experimental studies involving more than 27,000 women, the Cochrane Review—an independent, international collaboration that summarizes evidence for medical procedures—found that routine late-pregnancy ultrasound "does not confer benefit on mother or baby."

But it does do a good job of scaring expectant parents. Among other things, it finds minor anatomical abnormalities (like "bright spots" in the heart or intestine) that have been associated with feared genetic disorders such as Down syndrome. Less than half of maternal-fetal medicine specialists reported using the test to screen for these disorders in 2001; now almost all do. The problem is that the minor anatomical abnormalities are about 30 times more common than the genetic disorders they have been associated with.

That means most parents who are told after an ultrasound that their child might have serious problems are told so needlessly. Not surprisingly, this leads to a lot of unnecessary heartache and extra testing. This has led one of the founders of the technology to write that its routine use has crossed the line and now causes "more harm than good."

The story is no better for electronic fetal monitoring during labor. Largely confined to teaching hospitals during the 1960s and '70s, by 1999—the last time the federal government examined the topic—electronic fetal monitoring was used in 83 percent of all U.S. births. After reviewing experimental studies involving more than 37,000 women, the Cochrane Review found that the monitoring had no effect on the need for neonatal intensive care or, more important, infant survival.

It did lead to slightly fewer seizures, but also to a lot more Cesarean sections—on the order of 100 extra C-sections to avoid one seizure.

The increase in fetal monitoring is part of the explanation for why the beginning of life now involves major surgery one-third of the time.

There is even more medical care at the end of life. Although most Americans say they would like to die at home, the most common place of death is still the hospital.

A hospital is not a peaceful place. The prevailing paradigm is intervention, not comfort. Nowhere is this more true than in intensive care units. They tend to be busy, noisy, frenetic and frightening places. There are lots of monitoring devices, which lead to lots of uncomfortable procedures. The ICU is not a good place to die.

Yet they are being used more and more for this purpose. Between 1995 and 2005, Dartmouth Atlas data show a 25 percent increase in the proportion of Medicare patients spending time in the ICU during their last six months of life. The average number of days spent in the ICU went up even more—by 43 percent.

Furthermore, a startling number of doctors can be involved with care at the end of life. A third of Medicare patients cared for by "America's Best Hospitals" (as designated by U.S. News & World Report) were seen by 10 or more physicians during their last six months of life. That's right, 10 or more. It's hard to imagine how that can ever be good. These may be our best hospitals, but they are certainly not our best deaths.

So the most fundamental life events—birth and death—increasingly involve more and more medical care. Why should you care about this increasing medicalization of birth and death?

Simple. Because it exemplifies the medicalization of life. Everyday experiences get turned into diseases, the definitions of what (and who) is normal get narrowed, and our ability to affect the course of normal aging get exaggerated. And we doctors feel increasingly compelled to look hard for things to be wrong in those who feel well.

Medicalization is the process of turning more people into patients. It encourages more of us to be anxious about our health and undermines our confidence in our own bodies. It leads people to have too much treatment—and some of them are harmed by it.

And it's big part of the reason why medical care costs so much.

There are many areas in which medical care has a great deal to offer. But it has now gone well beyond them. There may have been a time when the words "Do everything possible" were indeed the right approach to medical care. But today, with so many more possibilities for intervention, that's a strategy that is increasingly incompatible with a good life. We all need to be a little more skeptical and—to really be healthy—willing to ask "Why?"

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

March is for motoring

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed holds a degree in economics from UCLA and has served as a U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

If it's March, it must be time for the latest automobile reliability statistics from Consumer Reports, and this year is no exception. Yes, the April automotive edition (which comes out in March) is now in circulation. Whether you're looking for an island beater, or a new car, or just follow this stuff for general interest, this is a very useful magazine issue, since cars are second only to houses as the biggest purchases we make in life.

As of yesterday, Saipan's Bestseller books didn't have the April issue in stock yet, but they have agreed to let me know when it arrives. When I get the word, I'll post the news at SaipanBlog.com.

The Consumer Reports automotive issue is famous for its compilation of statistics about cars, notably the reliability for various models. That's why I buy this issue every year. By contrast, I'm not interested in their, or anyone else's, editorial views on cars, which can hold a lot of subjective nuance. But when it comes to the reliability statistics, I think Consumer Reports does an admirable job. Whether buying new or used, it gives us a change of avoiding the stinkers, and finding the gems.

The statistics look back six years for each major make and model of car in the U.S. market, so, this year, they cover models from 2004 through 2009.

They also summarize reliability information by manufacturer, and this year is mighty interesting. Of the 15 major car brands listed, they list Honda as the most reliable breed. Toyota is listed second.

South Korea's Hyundai, a brand I've written about here from time to time (yeah, I'm a big fan of South Korea), rates fourth on the list, ahead of all American brands, all of which are in the bottom half of the list. Hyundai used to be joke-fodder for Americans. So who's laughing now?

In fact, the top eight of the 15 brands are all foreign. Ford is listed in ninth place on the list; last on the list is Chrysler, and second-last is GM.

Ah, how the mighty have fallen. I learned to drive in a Chrysler; it was the size of a Spruance class destroyer and was a great ride. Back in the day, my father was a marketing consultant to Chrysler. Times change. Dad now drives a Lexus.

Over the course of a couple of decades, I have casually correlated the reliability data in the Consumer Reports April edition with the problems my pals and I have had with our cars. The correlations seem to be very close. This has given me a lot of confidence in the way that Consumer Reports is doing things.

They also list some safety information about various models, including crash test results. I am very (very) interested in how much my vehicle weighs, since I like big iron, so I'm happy to note that they list vehicle weights for the current model year, maybe for old-school guys like me and my old physics teacher.

Speaking of weight, car weights are usually reported as "curb weight," but nobody ever seems to explain just now much a curb weighs. Well, this must be true, because I read it on the Internet: Curb weight is the weight of the vehicle without people or cargo in it, but it does include consumables (fuel, oil, etc.) So it's essentially the empty operating weight. Now we know.

I know it's not fashionable to like cars these days, nor to even understand how they work, but I'm not fashionable and I still like cars. I once had an engine custom built to my specifications for a full-sized Ford pickup truck, and my pals helped me install it, and after I moved to Saipan I missed it so much that I had it shipped out.

If you think that move was a bit financially indulgent, then consider one of my in-laws, who just bought a DeLorean, so named for the late John Z. DeLorean. If today's breed of bland, bean-counting auto executives leave you unmoved, then you should take a look at Mr. DeLorean's biography. He may have been controversial, but he certainly wasn't boring.

I think I'd start crying if I ever added up how much money I've put into cars, fuel, insurance, repairs, maintenance, and so on over the years; it surely would mount into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, and I don't buy expensive cars, I buy normal Fords.

Well, any way you look at it, cars are a part of life, and as long as Consumer Reports keeps publishing their reliability data, I'll keep buying their April edition.

A few thoughts on evaluating pension obligation bonds

Conclusion

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.

We live in complicated and interconnected times, not at all like the old days on the islands. When the government influences a policy or program in one area such as failure to meet its financial obligation to its own defined benefit Retirement Fund, this action can have unanticipated, unintended, long-range and expensive consequences on government bond ratings.

Bond rating companies might take one look at the "payment holiday" law the CNMI Legislature passed relieving the central government of its financial obligation to make its employer contributions to the Fund for a period of time and say, "Whoa! If a law can be passed in the NMI permitting the government to avoid paying its financial obligation, they can do the same thing with us. A law could be passed not to honor the terms of a bond commitment as previously agreed."

Thus, there is the potential for greater risk to the bond holder (real or imagined) of the possibility of non-payment for which the NMI government has already provided ample evidence. Blaming the problem on previous administrations or someone else might work sometimes with the voters but the excuse won't work with investors.

Taxpayers ultimately pay in the form of higher fees and interest costs on public debt, often in amounts of millions of dollars. Some government borrowers are often required (forced) to buy insurance policies to safeguard their bonds in the event they fail to pay their debit. This is another added cost. By now you may have guessed it: These insurance policies are very expensive and you already know who pays in the end.

The highest bond rating and therefore the best is AAA, while a rating of BB+ to D signal increasingly greater levels of credit risk. However, the rating system may be undergoing change as even U.S. Treasury bonds may be downgraded—but that's another story.

The NMI has created a very ingenious "Catch 22" for legalizing its failure to avoid payment of its debts and "stiffing" creditors. I suspect many government creditors are unaware of this fiscal strategy, which could also adversely influence the issuing of government bonds once it becomes known to bond rating agencies. I refer, of course, to 1 CMC section 7207, which is now the subject of a complaint before the Superior Court (CA 10-00441A). There are so many lawsuits now in the NMI in different stages of litigation in various courts, the sheer number is enough to raise concern over the long-term viability of the retirement program and shine light on the legal manipulation and confusion surrounding the Fund.

All bonds must be guaranteed by some form of "back-up" revenue source. I hope there is no plan to use the Fund's existing and dwindling portfolio of investments for this purpose or, for that matter, the government's employer contributions which should (but regrettably have not been) transferred directly to the Fund for purposes of making additional interest generating investments for all members of the defined benefit plan. While the proceeds from a bond can be invested, one hopes the interest earned on the investment is substantially greater than the interest paid on the bond. It can be tricky to keep ahead. Remember, a pension obligation bond is not an interest generating investment per se for anyone one but the bond purchaser but a debt to be retired.

Section 7202 (above) provides; *"Except for funds appropriated for settlements and awards, no court may require the disbursement of funds from the Commonwealth Treasury or order the reprogramming of funds in order to provide for such disbursement. Any final judgment of a court shall be paid only pursuant to an item of appropriations for settlements and awards."*

Wow! What a convenient way to avoid payment of a legal debt or bond obligation. An attorney for a bond rating company could take one look at that law and not even think twice about the possible adverse ramifications for any bond issuance.

For more information, Google, "Evaluating the Use of Pension Obligation Bonds" and scroll down the listing. There's a lot there and in particular the above titled article.

Just remember, if you are a member of the Retirement Fund, every time you hear or read reference to "pension obligation" ask yourself if you want the source of funds now paying your pension assigned by the government to guarantee payment of a bond.

If the government wants to float a general obligation bond to raise money to pay off its indebtedness to the Fund, that's one thing, but only if pensions are not placed in jeopardy.

Finally, I have been told by friends that my writing and opinions on this subject has irritated some people. If you have questions about the issue I have discussed herein, don't believe me. Check out my statements with a banker or anyone else with a background in investment finance but please, not someone who claims 20 years experience which in reality may be only one year's experience 20 times over.

Editor's note: *The author has been a banking adviser to the Societe Tunisienne Development Bank, Thailand's Board of Investment, African Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and the Bahamas Development Bank. He has written and published more than 70 independent assessments and "op-ed" articles expressing the point of view of an economist as related to the diminishment and possible eventual collapse of the Fund's defined benefit plan. His series documents the role of the NMI's central government's policies which have resulted in jeopardizing the long-term financial security of the Fund's portfolio and the loss of millions of dollars to its loyal retirees. See http://www.saipanstewart.com.*

Letter to the Editor

Enforce the law

To all lawmakers and administrators: si Pale always say, "Peace be with you all" when he ask us to offer each other the sign of peace. The same thing when our parents scold us for fighting. All of you leaders and administrators should do the same when making plans, laws, policies and others to make our place better.

Instead of arguing how to divide the money, why don't you make plans on how to make money and how to help make living sustainable? Do not depend too much on the feds' money. Look into how to make a better living for all of us, not just for your family, because that is creating conflict within our system. See, we are now all paying for the sins some of you made.

You make laws and don't enforce it. Why? Because you forgot to check if this law you made is effective. Remember when your parent spanked you? You behaved because if you don't, you get spanked again. It's the same thing, check all the regulatory agencies and look into what laws need to be implemented or changed. Check if the employees need training too, especially within the Revenue Division.

There are many businesses owners here on island. Don't you think it's time we look into how much taxes they are paying and how much they are making? There is one local businessman who closed down his business, still trying to figure out how these small businesses are booming up so fast while his failed. Does Finance monitor the sales of these grocery stores? They are making a lot of money because their business is booming every year, yet our revenue is not.

Check our employees at the Revenue Division and the Commerce Department and ask the feds if they have funds to train these employees so that they can monitor these businesses. I think we need to hire more tax collectors and inspectors. Also, Commerce should have more enforcers that will check these businesses if they are complying. The Revenue Division is the one of the most important departments in our government because this is where we get the tax money that pay for our salaries, services, and other needs.

While your're all busy fighting, who is going to get the money? Someone out there is making money illegally and you're not watching. Maybe another way of making money is to start enforcing our revenue laws and penalizing lawbreakers. There are many ways to make money with these people who are doing illegal business, like the unlicensed roadside stalls. How's that for a start?

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

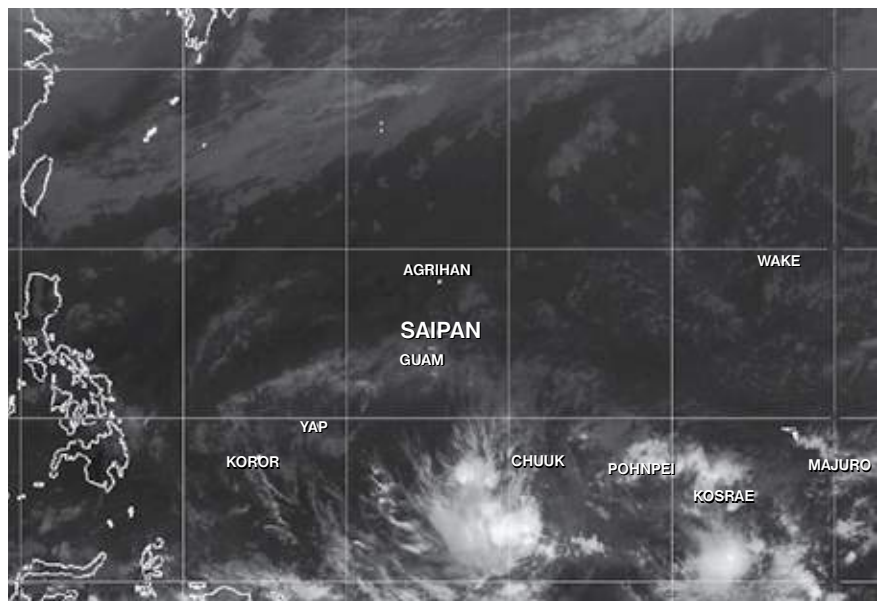
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼74
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲83	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲70	▼63
Beijing	Cloudy	▲61	▼36
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲79	▼70
Honolulu	Showers	▲75	▼66
London	Cloudy	▲59	▼46
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲74	▼54
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼75
Melbourne	Showers	▲82	▼65
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼59
New York	Sunny	▲70	▼50
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲53	▼44
Paris	Cloudy	▲59	▼51
Pusan	Sunny	▲58	▼48
Rome	Cloudy	▲58	▼44
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼32
San Francisco	Sunny	▲69	▼47
Seoul	Showers	▲46	▼34
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲57	▼45
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲71	▼47

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line cuts southwestward across the northwest corner of the discussion area from west of Iwo To island at 25N140E to beyond 130E at 20E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 200 miles northwest of the shear line. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers over Guam and Rota within 115 miles of a line from 11N135E to 14N149E. A near-equatorial trough extends northeastward from 2N130E to 3N140E then turns southeastward to end at EQ158E. Low-level convergence near the trough is combining with favorable upper winds to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Chuuk within 205 miles of a line from EQ145E to 6N152E. A tropical disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Kosrae between the equator and 11N from 160E to 170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:39 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
9:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:05 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:30 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:09 AM	9:15 PM
Saturday	8:53 AM	10:10 PM
Sunday	9:43 AM	11:07 PM
Monday	10:36 AM	
Monday	11:35 AM	12:06 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:55am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:50am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:40pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:35pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	4:50pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL641	9:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
DL298	10:15am	2:45pm	Daily
DL287/641	5:50pm	1:35am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

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Rota High senior makes it to honor society's list

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota High School senior Denn M. Manglona's hard work is finally paying off with his inclusion in the prestigious National Society of High School Scholars.

The 17-year-old son of Senate President Paul Manglona and wife Lydia has been recognized as a top scholar and his honor society membership will provide him special opportunities to distinguish himself based on outstanding scholastic achievement and academic excellence.

Manglona's acceptance to the honor society was announced by founder and chair Claes Nobel, a senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes.

"On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice, and commitment that Denn M. Manglona has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence. He is now a member of a unique community of scholars—a community that represents our very best hope for the future," Nobel said.

Nobel said it is the honor society's vision to build a dynamic international organization that connects members with meaningful content, resources, and opportunities.

They also aim to help students like Manglona build on their academic successes and enhance the skills and desires to have a positive impact on the global community.

The local student also has the opportunity to join in one of the society's newest programs that would make him the NSHSS Ambassador at Rota High School. Society ambassadors are eligible to compete for $1,000 ambassador scholar awards in addition to other society scholarships.

Membership in the society entitles qualified students to enjoy a variety of benefits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, member-only resources, and participation in programs offered by educational partners.

The society was formed in 2002. To date, there are more than 300,000 society members in over 120 countries.

Saipan Tribune learned that Manglona was also among 12 students from the Commonwealth who were nominated by Rep. Gregorio Sablan (D-MP) to the U.S. military academy for Class of 2014.

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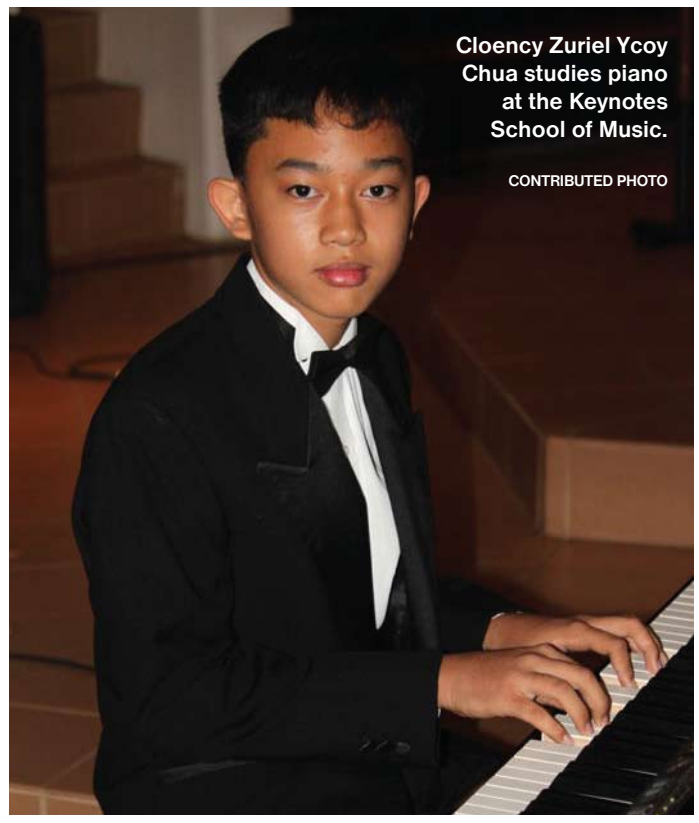
Saipan piano student does well at Guam music fest



Cloency Zuriel Ycoy Chua studies piano at the Keynotes School of Music.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cloency Zuriel Ycoy Chua, a 12-year-old Saipan resident and a piano student at the Keynotes School of Music, made it to the magic three at the prestigious 2010 Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

Started in 2005 as a three-day band festival featuring adjudicated performances by bands from Guam's public, private and military school, the Tumon Bay Music Festival is now a nine-day regional event featuring musical performances that include choral, hand bell choir, rock and jazz ensembles. Renowned musicians from all parts of the world have attended the festival in the past.

The 2010 Tumon Bay Festival started on March 13.

The eldest of the three children of Celso and Nancy Chua, Zuriel started piano lesson when he was 6. While attending 7th grade school at Grace Christian Academy, he continues his piano lessons at Keynotes School of Music, located on Middle Road, Saipan. He is always one of the star performers in every KSM recital, which is held at least twice a year.

Zuriel's teacher, Dinah Medina, and all the other music teachers, students, management and staff of Keynotes School of Music expressed themselves proud of Zuriel's accomplishment at the 2010 Tumon Bay Music Festival. "From all of us, congratulations Zuriel!" ***(PR)***

Road closures for Tagaman

Traffic officers will be closing and directing traffic tomorrow, March 20, between the hours of 6am and 12pm to ensure the safety of participants in the Tagaman Triathlon that would take place at these hours.

The route of the event is from the Coral Ocean Point to Kilelemaan's cross intersection above the old Immigration Detention building, down toward the Koblerville main road, then heads north on Beach Road all the way toward Bird Island, then back to Micro Beach.

The road leading from Navy Hill/CHC traffic light to the Garapan Fire Station to Micro Beach will be closed between 6am and 12pm.

All motorists are asked to take extra precautionary measures when driving along affected routes. The public is also advised to secure their dogs during the duration of the triathalon. ***(DPS)***

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'WASC OK needed to revive Tinian, Rota programs'

Continental donates plane tickets for NMC Foundation's golf tournament

In addition to considerable cash and other prizes, first place winners of the golf tournament hosted by the NMC Foundation will also win roundtrip airfare tickets to any destination served by Continental in Micronesia or Asia.

The plane tickets have been donated by Continental Micronesia in support of the 8th Annual Foundation Open golf tournament, which will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2010. The tournament aims to raise critical funds for the Northern Marianas College, the lone post-secondary, WASC-accredited institution in the CNMI.

"Continental Airlines has always been a strong supporter of expanding higher education opportunities for students in the CNMI and throughout the Pacific region," said Charles M. Duncan, president, Continental Micronesia and staff vice president, Asia Pacific, Continental Airlines. "We will continue to support the efforts of the Foundation in any way we can to ensure that CNMI students have access to enhanced instructional programs and services."

"We are extremely grateful for Continental's contribution to the tournament and its continued commitment to the College," said Ben Babauta, NMC Foundation president.

The 8th Annual Foundation Open golf tournament is set to be a one-day event to take place at the West Course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. Show time is 6am with a shotgun start at 7am sharp.

"I encourage all golfers to come out on Saturday to play for a very worthy cause," said Babauta. "We're targeting 120 golfers, which will make for a great field in one of the finest tournaments of the season."

In addition to the roundtrip tickets, there are cash prizes for the top winners of the six flights: $500 for first place, $300 for second place, and $200 for third place. There are also significant hole in one prizes that will be announced later.

To register to play, stop by Triple J Motors, the Laolao Bay Golf Course, or the NMC Cashier's Office to complete a registration form and pay the $95 entrance fee. Registration forms can also be found on www.nmcnet.edu.

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to raise funds to support the Northern Marianas College, the CNMI's lone post-secondary educational institution. The organization is composed of individuals who are dedicated and committed to ensuring that CNMI students receive the utmost support in pursuing their educational goals.

For more information about the tournament, contact NMC at 234-5498 extension 1050 or 1051. ***(NMC)***

In order for Northern Marianas College to reactivate suspended academic programs at Rota and Tinian instructional sites, NMC must first seek approval from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

"We recognize the intense desire and need to reestablish academic programs on Rota and Tinian, and in doing so, we must be sure to comply with all accreditation standards and policies," said NMC's interim president, Lorraine T. Cabrera.

ACCJC's Substantive Change Policy states, "Should the college wish to reopen a… site [at which programs have been suspended], a…Substantive Change Proposal and visit will occur prior to reopening to verify that the institution has the personnel, facilities, and resources reported in the proposal."

According to Galvin Deleon Guerrero, NMC's accreditation liaison officer, "there is no doubt that reactivating suspended academic programs on Rota and Tinian would require a significant amount of human and financial resources." Deleon Guerrero referred to the ACCJC Substantive Change Policy requirement that any proposal must present evidence of institutional quality consistent with accreditation standards.

"Meeting these standards means ensuring that Rota and Tinian have more than just faculty and academic courses, but also services such as library, counseling, and information technology services," Deleon Guerrero said.

Furthermore, the quality of such services, according to ACCJC policy, must be "equivalent to [that of] the home campus."

Deleon Guerrero said it can take up to one year before a Substantive Change Proposal is approved by ACCJC.

One of the first steps toward developing a Substantive Change Proposal for ACCJC is to conduct a community needs assessment to ascertain what programs are needed in the community affected. Both the Rota and Tinian instructional sites have begun their respective community needs assessments. ***(NMC)***

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Zoning workshops held to explain Saipan 2008 Zoning Law

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board held a workshop Wednesday and met with local business consultants and document holders to address issues and concerns as it prepares to review and update the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law.

The workshop introduced the zoning office's new record of zoning inquiry forms. These forms are necessary for consultants, agents, or anyone who handles the paperwork for a business. The inquiry form helps document handlers determine which of the various application forms are required for their business. The inquiry form is intended to save consultants extra trips to the zoning office. It helps them find out the document requirements for their type of business.

A big concern for the zoning office relates to businesses residing in old existing buildings. Many of these older structures on island are nonconforming to the new laws, but since they existed before 2008, these buildings were grandfathered into the system.

"We need to take action and provide land-use compatibility. These efforts are being made to get things in order, not to give people a hard time," said Zoning board chair Herminia Fusco.

New and even current businesses that are due for renewal must be approved by the zoning board and conform to the 2008 zoning laws. But once a current business goes through its initial renewal process, the renewal procedure works more smoothly the second and third time around.

"As long as you don't expand your structure (build on) or relocate the business, then no more paperwork," said zoning officer Anicia Tomokane as she distinguished between nonconforming and conforming structures.

Other topics included explanations about business signs, window advertising, and fencing requirements.

The Zoning Office has scheduled more workshops in coming days, focusing on the needs of new business developers, surveyors, engineers and architects, and adult businesses.

The workshops will be held at the Zoning Office conference room on the second floor of the Joeten Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan. Anyone with questions about the meetings may contact the Zoning Office at (670)234-9661 or staff@zoning.gov.mp.

The zoning board workshop welcomes suggestions, questions, comments, and/or solutions to the issues and concerns about zoning regulations and procedures. The feedback will be considered for future revisions. The deadline for submitting suggestions is April 30, 2010.

Zoning Board members pose with local consultants and document handlers after a public forum workshop intended to promote awareness of the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law. The next workshops will be held Wednesday, March 31, from 9am to 10am and from 2pm to 3pm on the second floor of the Joeten Commercial Building in Dandan.

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

March 31, 2010	9am -10am	New Business Developers
March 31, 2010	2pm -3pm	Surveyors
April 7, 2010	9am - 10am	Engineer/Architects
April 7, 2010	2pm -3pm	Adult Businesses

DPS to go after 255 gun owners with expired permits

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

On Monday, the Department of Public Safety will start going after 255 gun owners in the CNMI who have expired firearms permits.

"By Monday we will start enforcing the CNMI Gun Law against those with expired firearms permits," DPS spokesman Eric F. David told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

David said the campaign against gun owners with expired permits will not only be on Saipan, but also on Tinian and Rota.

David urged gun owners to visit the DPS Bureau of Motor Vehicle's Records and Firearms to register or renew their firearms permits and pay $50 for the one-year period.

The permits cover all guns such as .22 caliber, .223 caliber, and .410 shotgun.

In an earlier statement, David said the DPS Joint Drug and Firearm Enforcement Task Force will be in full force next and will be serving arrest warrants and penal summons to all violators.

"Any person who is in possession of illegal firearms and or ammunition after this notice will be dealt with according to the law," he said.

David said individuals who wish to relinquish ownership of their firearms must voluntarily and peacefully surrender his/her firearm and or ammunition to DPS for proper disposal.

He said firearms with expired permits that are in custody of the DPS Armory Section will be disposed of properly.

As of today, David said, 255 gun owners in the CNMI remain unregistered and non-compliant with CNMI gun laws.

Earlier *Saipan Tribune* reports quoted CNMI Range Master Ambrosio Ogumoro as saying that, of the 800 firearms on Saipan that were previously declared as unregistered, 250 remain unregistered as of Feb. 10, 2009. For Rota, 60 gun permits remain expired, while on Tinian all permit holders have successfully renewed their firearms, Ogumoro had said.

DPS said registering firearms will promote public safety, decrease the sale of stolen guns, and reduce the risk of potential loss of life within the community.

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Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, April 1, 2010 at 6:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications

B. Reports
1. Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

C. Public Comments

D. Permits/ Applications/ Rezones: review and decide.
1. None

E. Old Business
1. Proposed amendments to Saipan Zoning Law of 2008
   a. Update on proposed amendments to the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law (Presentation; no action)

F. New Business
1. Update on Zoning Enforcement Activities
2. Update on Zoning Permit Processing
3. Update on Board's Public Outreach Program

G. Executive (Closed) Session

H. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chair, Zoning Board

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Happy 21st birthday to Frankie M. Camacho, Jr., left, who is celebrating his special day today, March 19, 2010. Well, Frankie, reaching the age of 21 means you may now hit the clubs and have fun, but not too much, alright! Nahh, bottoms up, bro! And a belated happy birthday shoutout to Chris Castro, right. Wishing you both the best in life and may the Lord bless you! Greetings coming out from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

To the greatest and most beautiful lady ever, Maria Torres, happy birthday and may all your dreams and wishes come true. We love you always. From your family and Obama.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 3rd birthday to Gregory Stephen P. Calvo Jr. We love you very much! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Brittany, Chad, Sierra, and Clayton!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS

Pionnah Rosej Gregorio, a 3rd grade student at Green Meadow School, won two gold medals in Dramatic Interpretation and Choral Speaking during the CNMI Regional P.G.F.C Tournament on March 6, 2010 at Kagman Elementary School. Pionnah is flanked by her proud parents, Bong and Rosebeth, along with coach/adviser Ellen Alejo, Marilynn Divino and GMS president Mila Merjilla.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 7th birthday to Jenisha Jo Dubrall! We love you more and more!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 4th birthday to Regina Frances Terlaje Pangelinan! Things to love about a daughter like you: Your smile, warm laugh, loving heart and everything! Greetings come from Daddy, Mommy, Reynee, Markie, and Regina

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 4th birthday to Kahra Jae Songsong Sakuma! May God bless you on your birthday today, March 19, 2010! We love you! Greetings come from your mom, dad, Auntie Crystal, Auntie Kim, and the family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 13th birthday to Sabrina Rose Terlaje Pangelinan! Love to hear what's new with you, love the times we spend, love your heart, your way, your smile, love you without end! Greetings come from Daddy, Mommy, Reynee, Markie, and Regina

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

It's how the CNMI knows what it needs.
Help the CNMI get our fair share.
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Jobs bill with CNMI impact goes to Obama for signature

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Senate passed yesterday a jobs bill that will encourage hiring in the Northern Mariana Islands and around the country. The House passed the bill on March 4. The HIRE Act, H.R. 2847, now goes to the President to sign into law.

"People in the Northern Mariana Islands need jobs," said Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP). "The HIRE Act makes it less expensive for employers to hire workers and rewards employers for keeping new hires on the payroll. With our private sector economy shrinking and government laying off workers this is the kind of help we need."

The centerpiece of the bill gives employers a break from paying the 6.2 percent Social Security tax for the remainder of 2010 on any new workers they hire who had been unemployed for at least 60 days. The new worker would also be free of the 6.2 percent Social Security tax.

Anyone hired between Feb. 3, 2010, and Jan. 1, 2011, qualifies, if they have been unemployed or underemployed.

Employers would also get a $1,000 tax credit for each of those workers who stays on the payroll for at least one year.

Because the tax credit would come out of the CNMI Treasury, which is already short of resources, Sablan and the other territorial delegates have been working together since last year to make sure that their local governments would be reimbursed by the U.S. Treasury in the jobs bill.

"Any $1,000 tax credit that is claimed will be paid for by the U.S.," said Sablan. "This is the same arrangement that we worked out for the Making Work Pay tax credit contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act."

Making Work Pay provided a tax credit of up to $400 for individuals and $800 for those filing joint returns. Money to make up the shortfall for the CNMI government is covered over regularly by the U.S. Treasury.

In addition to the tax provisions encouraging hiring the HIRE Act also provides highway fund for Fiscal Year 2010. The CNMI will receive $4.5 million for its highways. This money, too, is expected to create jobs and help stimulate the local economy.

10 teams to duke it out in junior high mock trials

The public is invited to attend the Junior High Mock Trial program at the U.S. District Court tomorrow, March 20, 2010, beginning at 9am.

The event will feature seven schools in a 10-team field.

The five mock trials will feature the following pairings: (1) Rota Jr. HS vs. Hopwood Jr. HS-1; (2) Hopwood Jr. HS-2 vs. Grace Christian Academy/Rota-1; (3) Tinian Jr. HS vs. Eskuelan San Franciso de Borja/Rota; (4) Grace Christian Academy/Rota-2 vs. Whispering Palms; and (5) Hopwood Jr. HS-2 vs. Mount Carmel Jr. HS.

Each participating mock trial team is headed by a teacher coach and has received periodic legal advice and guidance from a lawyer coach.

The program uses modified rules for junior high students but will feature the same drug-related murder case used in the high school competition.

Former representative Joseph N. Camacho will serve as the trial judge. At the conclusion of the program, Camacho will recognize exceptional performances by student lawyers and witnesses.

According to the NMI Council for the Humanities executive director, Scott Russell, the mock trial program is held annually to help junior high school students develop useful knowledge about the law and courtroom procedures in an enjoyable, non-competitive format.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Student lawyers argue their case during last year's mock trial.

Russell said that students have argued both civil and criminal cases in past years but that they seem to prefer the criminal cases.

Long time mock trial coach Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero expressed his appreciation for this annual event.

"We are happy that the NMI Council for Humanities has taken on this project. It's a great way to introduce younger students to the trial process, as well as prepare them for the high school competition." Deleon Guerrero said.

The public is reminded that a valid photo ID is necessary to satisfy court security. For more information, contact the Council office at 235-4785. ***(PR)***

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All applicants must complete and submit a cover letter together with the NMHC Employment Application Form **AND** required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original cover letter, application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 05, 2010 **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than April 05, 2010, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PUBLIC & PRIVATE SECTOR THAT **MR. CHI BUM AN** AND **MRS. HYO SUK SHIN** ARE NO LONGER THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR, RESPECTIVELY OF **INTEGRATIVE CORPORATION dba Saipan Karios University**. ANY BUSINESS TRANSACTION ENTERED INTO BY **MR. AN** AND **MRS. SHIN** IN BEHALF OF INTEGRATIVE CORPORATION FROM FEBRUARY 05, 2010 TO PRESENT, WERE NOT AUTHORIZED AND WILL NOT BE HONORED BY THE NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY.

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Note: Previous Kairos Company located in Dandan is not related to Integrative Corporation.

FROM THE NEW OFFICERS AND MANAGEMENT OF INTEGRATIVE CORPORATION

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
NMHC RFP 2010-002

APPRAISAL OF NMHC'S ABANDONED/ FORECLOSED PROPERTIES
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD Funds.)

CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, March 22, 2010 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

PLACE: Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board, are soliciting competitive sealed proposals from reputable, licensed and certified appraisers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Copies of the proposal package may be obtained at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays.

The procedures for this procurement shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this procurement.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Neighborhood Stabilization Program provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these funds are provided to low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible. Proposers are further notified NMHC will affirmatively insure that in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE) are afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability or national origin.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE **BOARD OF REGENTS SPECIAL MEETING** THAT RECESSED ON MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2010 WILL RESUME ON TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010 AT 2:30PM IN THE BOR CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE, SAIPAN CAMPUS.

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Board of Regents
Special Board Meeting
Board of Regents Conference Room, NMC Saipan Campus
Monday, March 15, 2010
3:30pm

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
   A. Roll Call

II. Public Comments

III. Old Business
   A. Personnel Matters

IV. Executive Session
   (At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)

V. Adjournment

/s/ Janet Han King
Chairperson, Board of Regents

March 12, 2010
Date

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu, Website: www.nmcnet.edu

REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT SERVICE CONTRACT

FOR

AGRICULTURE CONSULTANT
(BETELNUT AND RODENT CONTROL PROJECT)

CLOSING DATE IS APRIL 12, 2010 BY 4:30 PM

Northern Marianas College is announcing a one (1) year contract for an Agriculture Consultant for the Betel nut and Rodent Control Project. Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at NMC CREES Office, located in Bldg F , Monday through Friday 8:00 to 4:30 pm.

Interested vendors may submit inquiries regarding this announcement to Ross Manglona, by facsimile to (670) 234-0054, or by e-mail to rossm@nmcnet.edu. If there are no qualified vendors or the number of qualified vendors, are deemed insufficient, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of submittals until the position is filled.

It is the policy of Northern Marianas College that equal opportunity is given to all qualified vendors without regard to age, race, gender, marital status, place of origin, religion, disability status, political affiliation or family relationship, or genetic information (GINA). The college reserves the right to waive or implement other means to meet its needs and the right to reject all vendors or withdraw the vacancy should NMC determine such a position is no longer needed or able to be filled. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

/s/Ross S. Manglona
Director, NMC CREES

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

Mike Vine swings by Tinian

While hundreds of international triathletes descended on Saipan for each year's Sports Fest, very few have ventured to the neighboring islands of Rota and Tinian to take in the sites or to make it a part of their training grounds—except this year. Tinian was graced with one of the top pros from Canada, Mike Vine.

Vine, the 2000 XTERRA Canada Pro Champion, the 2002 XTERRA Saipan Pro Champion, the XTERRA USA 2008 Champ and winner of 2009 XTERRA Malaysia, decided to spend some time on Tinian after meeting local Tinian triathletes Janet King and Joshua A. Manglona.

What Vine discovered was a whole different world from the bustle of Saipan. Tinian, he found, was a unique island worth visiting, for training or sightseeing.

"I wanted to show Mike my training grounds, and get some feedback from him on how to better improve my time in races," said Manglona.

Vine met up with local Tinian triathlete Joshua A. Manglona, the lone triathlete on Tinian. Together they swam laps in the large pool at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and the open ocean off of Tachogna and Taga Beaches.

A visit to Tinian is not complete without a visit to North Field, where the atomic bomb pits are located. Vine and Manglona ran the length of one of the two runways for a good workout.

"We ran the runway," said Manglona. "There were some spectators in North Field, and they were watching us run in the hot sun!"

These historically significant runways were more than just a running track for these triathletes. North Field was considered the largest airfield in the Pacific and perhaps in the world during World War II.

From here in August 1945, the B-29 bombers *Enola Gay* and *Bock's Car* launched their atomic attacks on Japan. On Aug. 6, the *Enola Gay* left runway 1 at North Field and dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan, which in a matter of seconds destroyed 62,000 buildings and killed or mortally wounded 80,000 people. On Aug. 9, Maj. Charles W. Sweeney, flying from Tinian in the B-29 *Bock's Car*, dropped a second atomic bomb in Nagasaki.

Before leaving Tinian, Vine was greeted by Tinian Mayor Ray M. Dela Cruz, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider, and Councilman Patrick A. Manglona at the Tinian Mayor's Office.

"It was great having Mike [Vine] visit us on Tinian," said Manglona. "We hope to see more Sportsfest participants visit Tinian every year. We have a lot to offer. We're happy that Mike enjoyed his short visit." ***(PR)***

Guam OK'd for $10.8M in school construction bonds

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo announced yesterday the release of $10.8 million worth of low interest bonds for school construction in Guam.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided for the Department of the Treasury to support the issuance of bonds for school construction by state and local governments. Instead of normal interest payments, those who buy the bonds will receive federal income tax credits making them essentially interest free for local authorities. Altogether, the Recovery Act provided for the Department of the Treasury to issue nearly $11 billion worth of these bonds.

"These funds come at a critical time for our public schools on Guam," Bordallo said. "Guam's schools will be able to put these funds to use immediately on the many shovel-ready construction and renovation projects for our campuses. These improvements will enable the Guam Department of Education to improve our critical school infrastructure and create additional jobs at the same time. This is the latest example of how the Recovery Act has helped Guam make needed investments on our island." ***(PR)***

Canadian Mike Vine, second from left, has his picture taken with Councilman Patrick A. Manglona, Tinian Mayor Ray M. Dela Cruz, Tinian triathlete Joshua A. Manglona, and Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider during a visit to the Tinian Mayor's Office. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Relatives claim body of tourist killed in car accident

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The body of a 71-year-old Japanese woman who passed away last Dec. 26 at the Commonwealth Health Center, five months after being hit by a car in San Antonio, was claimed from CHC only last week.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday from sources at the Department of Public Safety that the remains were released from CHC's morgue to the next of kin and family members.

Sources said DPS is conducting further investigation into the victim's death.

When asked for an update on the investigation, DPS spokesman Eric David refused to comment.

A DPS source earlier disclosed that the Traffic Section only learned about the victim's death last March 8 because investigators allegedly did not make follow-up reports on the case.

The tourist was hit by a car while crossing Beach Road in San Antonio on the evening of July 30, 2009. She suffered multiple injuries.

Traffic investigators then reportedly found the driver, a 36-year-old woman, at fault for failing to exercise due care, failure to observe pedestrian's right-of-way at crosswalk, and failure to observe the speed limit.

The car involved—a 2001 Kia Sephia four-door sedan—was impounded as evidence.

As of yesterday, it was not clear yet whether the Office of the Attorney General has ever filed charges against the driver.

Covenant PARTY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Covenant Party of the Northern Mariana Islands would like to invite families and friends in celebration of

'Covenant Day'

on Wednesday, March 24, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai Church.

Please join us for food, fun and entertainment

Business

More than 100 complaints lodged over fixed Toyotas

WASHINGTON (AP)—Complaints of sudden acceleration in Toyotas repaired under recalls have nearly doubled in the past two weeks, according to an Associated Press analysis of government data.

The complaints from 105 drivers raise questions about whether Toyota's repairs will prevent the cars from speeding up on their own or if there is another reason for the problem.

Toyota has said it is confident in its repairs and has found no evidence of other problems, such as faulty electronics. The automaker did not immediately comment Wednesday on the latest complaints.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it was contacting owners who have complained about their repaired vehicles. David Strickland, NHTSA's administrator, said in a statement Wednesday the agency has found "several instances in which a dealer made mistakes in applying one of the recall remedies."

He said NHTSA has discussed the issue with Toyota, which is trying to improve instructions to dealers.

Toyota has recalled more than 8 million vehicles worldwide since October over complaints that gas pedals can become sticky or trapped under floor mats.

An AP review of a NHTSA database found reports of repaired cars continuing to accelerate on their own had jumped to 105 since March 4, when the government reported 60 such complaints.

The complaints are submitted online or through a NHTSA hot line and have not been independently verified.

In many of the comments, which can be filed anonymously, owners said the sudden acceleration issue reappeared only days after their cars were fixed at their local dealership.

"I went in for the recall and it seems there is a worse problem now," wrote the owner of a 2008 Toyota Tundra in Boynton Beach, Fla., who reported unwanted acceleration in early March. "I truly believe this is an electronic problem."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Black people must leave, NJ Walmart announcer says

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)—A Walmart store announcement ordering black people to leave brought chagrin and apologies Wednesday from leaders of the company, which has built a fragile trust among minority communities. A male voice came over the public-address system Sunday evening at a store in Washington Township, in southern New Jersey, and calmly announced: "Attention, Walmart customers: All black people, leave the store now." Shoppers in the store at the time said a manager quickly got on the public-address system and apologized for the remark. And while it was unclear whether a rogue patron or an employee was responsible for the comment, many customers expressed their anger to store management.

Kraft to cut salt in its North American foods

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Kraft Foods Inc. said Wednesday that it will cut the salt in its products that are sold in North America by an average of 10 percent over the next two years to appeal to health-conscious consumers. The changes at Kraft, the largest U.S. food maker, will affect more than 1,000 products and eliminate more than 10 million pounds of salt over the two-year period, the company said. Kraft and other food makers have cut their use of sodium in recent years. Among other cuts, the company said this latest move will cut the salt in Oscar Mayer Bologna by 17 percent, Easy Mac Cups by 20 percent and Velveeta by 10 percent.

Computer programmers indicted in NY Madoff fraud

NEW YORK (AP)—Two former employees accused of helping fraudulent Wall Street financier Bernard Madoff (MAY'-dawf) program an old computer to generate false records have been indicted. Wednesday's indictment accuses computer programmers Jerome O'Hara and George Perez of conspiracy, falsifying records of a broker dealer and falsifying records of an investment adviser.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. **DIEGO SN DELA CRUZ and LEOLANIE R. DELA CRUZ,** Defendants.	**Civil Action No. 06-0331-CV** **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON MOTION FOR AN ORDER OF SALE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY** **Date: April 15, 2010** **Time: 1:30 p.m.** **Judge: David Wiseman**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 15th day of April, 2010, at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held before the Honorable Judge David A. Wiseman on Plaintiff's Motion For an Order of Sale of Mortgaged Property in the above-styled matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, *Guma Hustisia*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 24th day of February, 2010.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. **WILLIAM DLG ANGUI and JESSIE A. AGUI,** Defendants.	**Civil Action No. 06-0590-CV** **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON MOTION FOR AN ORDER OF SALE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY** **Date: April 15, 2010** **Time: 1:30 p.m.** **Judge: David Wiseman**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 15th day of April, 2010, at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held before the Honorable Judge David A. Wiseman on Plaintiff's Motion For an Order of Sale of Mortgaged Property in the above-styled matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, *Guma Hustisia,* Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 24th day of February, 2010.

/s/Clerk of Court

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTLITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF BUSINESS MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday March 24, 2010 at the offices of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda will be available at the meeting for public inspection. Questions regarding the agenda should be referred to Commissioner Kyle Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

AGENDA

1. Call to order – quorum
2. Approval of minutes of October 7, 2008 and November 20, 2009 meetings
3. Docket 09-1 – CUC Electric Division.
   - Procurement Order [Waste Oil Disposal Services] – ratification
   - CUC/GCG 2/18/10 LEAC Protocol
4. Administration:
   - Commission FY11 Administrative Budget – ratification
   - Administrative Order – Procurement Process
   - Administrative Order – Guidelines for Negotiation, Mediation, Arbitration and Approval of Telecommunications Interconnection Arrangements
   - Administrative assistant and establishment of office
   - Resolution – Commissioner office terms
5. Other business

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DPW-081

SUBMISSION: APRIL 09, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY (MRF) LOCATED AT THE LOWER BASE REFUSE STATION"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

INTERESTED PROPOSERS SHOULD SUBMIT ALL QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION IN WRITING TO NO LATER THAN **MARCH 30, 2010. CLOSE OF BUSINESS** TO THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION BY FAX TO (670) 322-2762 OR EMAIL AT dpwsolidwaste@pticom.com.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. **KYLE E.M. ULECHONG and JENNIFER N.W. ULECHONG,** Defendants.	**Civil Action No. 09-0407** **AMENDED SUMMONS**

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS, KYLE E.M. ULECHONG and JENNIFER N.W. ULECHONG:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susuper Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the Complaint for Foreclosure by Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust, and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres**, attorney for Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust, at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**; and in case of failure to do so, a default will be rendered against you according to the demand of the Petition, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this 25th day of November, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

Remedio Celis
P.O. Box 500919
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 285-9479/288-9479

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF REMEDIO CELIS AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF DAVID LISUA CELIS Minor Child, By: **REMEDIO CELIS** Petitioner.	**FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0134** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor child by Remedio Celis, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 12th day of April, 2010 at 1:30 P.M. or as soon as thereafter.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONCESSION
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting proposals from qualified firms and individuals to operate a food and beverage concession at the Saipan International Terminal, Saipan International Airport. Interested firms and individuals are invited to submit proposals for food and beverage services to be offered to the traveling public.

Proposal packages may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, located at the Administrative Office of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Saipan International Airport during regular business hours. A fee of $50.00 shall be charged for a copy of the proposal package. Checks may be payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All proposals must be received by the Authority at its administrative Office, located at the Saipan International Airport no later than **4:30 on the 19th day of March, 2010** in order to be considered. In evaluating proposals the Authority shall consider the following criteria:

1. Financial standing and capability
2. Management qualifications
3. Capital Investment
4. Proposed Design of Concession Area
5. Food and Beverage to be offered
6. Customer Services, including proposed staffing
7. Pricing of food, beverage, and services offered

The decision on proposals submitted and the award to the successful proposer shall be made within forty-five (45) days of the closing date for receipt of proposals. The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals in accordance with Section 3.2 (7) and 4.1 of its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

Inquiries regarding this Request For Proposals may be addressed to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan MP 96950.

Dated This 3rd day of March, 2010.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ Edward M. DeLeon Guerrero
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONCESSION
TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms and/or individuals to operate a food and beverage concession at the Tinian International Airport. Interested firms and/or individuals are encouraged to specify in their proposal the types of products and/or services they intend to offer to the traveling public and how to best use the space available. The area of the space available is 433 square fee, and is centrally located at the Tinian International Airport. This space is available for inspection between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Proposal packages may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, located at the Administrative Office of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Saipan International Airport during regular business hours and the Office of the Tinian Ports Manager located in the Tinian International Airport. A fee of $50.00 shall be charged for a copy of the proposal package. Checks may be payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All proposals must be received by the Authority at its administrative Office, located at the Saipan International Airport no later than **4:30 on the 19th day of March, 2010** in order to be considered. In evaluating proposals the Authority shall consider the following criteria:

1. Financial standing and capability
2. Management qualifications
3. Capital Investment
4. Proposed Design of Concession Area
5. Food and Beverage to be offered
6. Customer Services, including proposed staffing
7. Pricing of food, beverage, and services offered

The decision on proposals submitted and the award to the successful proposer shall be made within forty-five (45) days of the closing date for receipt of proposals. The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals in accordance with Section 3.2 (7) and 4.1 of its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

Dated This 3rd day of March, 2010.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ Edward M. DeLeon Guerrero
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
DPW10-RFP-007

ROUTE 10 HAZARD ELIMINATION PROJECT, ROTA CM-NH-0010 (002)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural/Engineering companies for the **Route 10 Hazard Elimination Project, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).**

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 4-102 of the Procurement Regulations.

Any corporation or partnership "firm" must have or obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization **(COA)** from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Professional Licensing (CNMI BOPL). Individuals and/or sole proprietors are required to possess a valid professional license issued by the CNMI BOPL.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **March 19, 2010** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A **mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **April 7, 2010**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **April 23, 2010**.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored bases on the following criteria:

1. Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) **– 25%**
2. Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) **– 30%**
3. Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) **– 25%**
4. Current Workload of Firm (5 pages maximum) **– 20%**

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW10-RFP-007"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 28, 2010**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose.** Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 28, 2010** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 28, 2010** and must be received no later than **May 7, 2010**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architect-Engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government, factors such as the prices proposed by other firms responding to the solicitation shall be considered. If a fair and reasonable price can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful A-E firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Aquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-10-021

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms for the urgent supply of major overhaul and limited running parts for MITSUI #1 OVERHAUL project at Rota Power Plant CNMI.

Emergency generator sets will be used to power the island of Rota, while CUC takes down MITSUI #1 for major engine overhaul and rehabilitation. MITSUI #1 is seriously overdue for overhaul and the power situation on Rota is very critical.

A site visit and pre-bid meeting is not necessary, but bidders who wish to visit Rota power plant will be permitted with prior approval. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of emission on part of the proposers due to a lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work and Bid package will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until Monday, March 29, 2010.**

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"IFB 10-021 MITSUI#1 OVERHAUL PARTS"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No. 4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **Wednesday, April 07, 2010 at 10:00 AM**, local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Local Bidders (CNMI based business) will be required to submit a copy of a CNMI Business License upon notice of award of contract. Off-island Bidders (Non-CNMI based business) are excluded from the requirement of submitting a copy of a CNMI Business license upon notice of award of contract.

The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM local time on **Friday, April 2, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director Power System Rehabilitation via email at wallon59@yahoo.com.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Acting Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT • P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950-1055 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 / Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Saipan International Airport TSA Office/Restroom Renovations
Project No. CPA-SA-001-10

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for renovations of office space and a restroom and other improvements at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport which will be occupied by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

An electronic copy of the proposal package including plans and specifications is available at the office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport on **Monday, March 8, 2010**. The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal in itemized scope of work format (see proposal form in specifications);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for TSA Office/Restroom Renovations, Project Number CPA-SA-001-10"***. The proposal must be submitted no later than **Friday, March 19, 2010, 4:30 p.m.,** to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at *9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 15, 2010* at the CPA Airport Conference Room. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only contractors present at the pre-proposal meeting will be permitted to submit proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Project is being financed partially by funds from the Transportation Security Administration and CPA. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax. Contractor must also take into consideration anticipated minimum wage increases. CPA will not consider unjustifiable cost escalations due to unforeseen circumstances once contract is executed.

Proposers shall also include performance and payment bonds premium (payment and performance issued by a U.S. treasury listed bonding company or CPA approved surety) which are required for this project. Performance bond shall be extended to cover the one-year warranty period upon project acceptance. Contractors must also adhere to the insurance requirements included in the proposal package.

Contractor will be responsible for acquiring all necessary permits and permitting documents for project.

Proposers shall also submit with proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project.

The contract period for the project will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS ($1,000.00) shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com no later than March 12, 2010.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: March 4, 2010

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CUC-RFP-10-023

Request for Statement of Qualification for Project Manag ment Services

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting statement of qualification from individuals or firms for project management services. The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) has urgent need for various Professional - Project Management Services as related to the utility services. The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is the CNMI Government's combined power, water and wastewater utility. This is a request for proposals to meet the deliverables of a recent federal consent order regarding the disposal, handling and prevention activities regarding used oil, Stipulated Order #2. The CUC procurement regulations for Architect/Engineer (AIE) Procurement Regulations Title 50 Chapter 50 of the CNMI Administrative Code Paragraph 50-50-305 to publicly announce all requirements for arch architect-engineer services and negotiate contracts on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications at a fair and reasonable price. After public announcement of requirement for A/E services, statements shall be reviewed by CUC, and after discussion, selection shall be made in order of preference of A/E firms to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. The CUC shall attempt to negotiate a contract with the highest qualified architect-engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to CUC. In the event that a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated, negotiations shall be terminated and negotiations shall be undertaken with the next highest qualified firm.

The intent is for CUC to procure the services of the most qualified Project Management firm interested in performing a variety of Project Management services in accordance with standard practice including but not limited to construction and repair work, bulk fuel oil transfer, storage and handling in accordance with the applicable codes and regulations including American Petroleum Institute (API), Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Statements of Qualifications will be accepted, reviewed, rated, and ranked by a team of CUC individuals, followed by interviews, as necessary, culminating in the CUC identification of the most qualified firm(s) per CUC procurement regulations.

Details of the Solicitation Notice will be emailed to interested parties upon request, until March 15, 2010 by CUC, Procurement & Supply Division at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, 3' Floor, Room No. 4, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays.

One (1) original and five (5) copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-10-02 3, REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATION FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **Monday, March 22, 2010** at 10:OO AM, local time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject anyor all proposals and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shallbecome the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM local time on **Monday, March 18, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email at msablan@cucgov.net, Mr. Robert Lorenz, Water-Wastewater Engineer at email robert_lorenz@cucgov.net, Venu, PG Engineer at venu@cucgov.net.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 10-013

"SUMMER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSION"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in providing a **"Variety of professional development session in a range of program areas, including school improvement, school and district level leadership, curriculum and instruction, standards and assessment, out-of-time learning, and education technology"**. The Scope of Work is available beginning March 12, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Thursday, April 1, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. in the 2nd floor Conference Room, Retirement Fund Building.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Tim Thornburgh, Federal Program Officer via fax to 670.664-3797 or e-mail to thornburght@gmail.com no later than April 7, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 10-013" containing (1) Original and Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Thursday, April 15, 2010 at 10:30 A.M. Any proposals submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

This project is funded through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 10-014

"LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in developing an **"Enhance school leadership program to measure the leadership capabilities of our school instructional staff (teachers and school administrators) through a series of professional development activities and then through ongoing classroom observation"**. The Scope of Work is available beginning March 12, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Thursday, April 1, 2010 at 1:00 P.M. in the 2nd floor Conference Room, Retirement Fund Building.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Tim Thornburgh, Federal Program Officer via fax to 670.664-3797 or e-mail to thornburght@gmail.com no later than April 7, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 10-014" containing (1) Original and Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Friday, April 16, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. Any proposals submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

This project is funded through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 10-016

"SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in providing **"Assistance to CNMI PSS in supporting lower performing schools and in building system-wide capacity for leading and sustaining improvement in the academic achievement of our students"**. The Scope of Work is available beginning March 19, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. in the 2nd floor Conference Room, Retirement Fund Building.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Tim Thornburgh, Federal Program Officer via fax to 670.664-3797 or e-mail to thornburght@gmail.com no later than April 14, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 10-016" containing (1) Original and Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. Any proposals submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

This project is funded through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 10-017

"CAREER EXPLORATION, GUIDANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in providing a **"High Quality Career Exploration, Guidance and Development Program for CNMI Public School System."** The scope of work is available beginning March 12, 20 10 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. in the 2nd floor Conference Room, Retirement Fund Building.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Ms. Jessica Barcinas-Taylor, CTE Program Coordinator via fax to 670.664-3796 or e-mail to butterspirit@yahoo.com no later than April 7, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 10-017" containing (1) Original and Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 10:30 A.M. Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

This Project is funded through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Nation

Health bill gains ground but release delayed

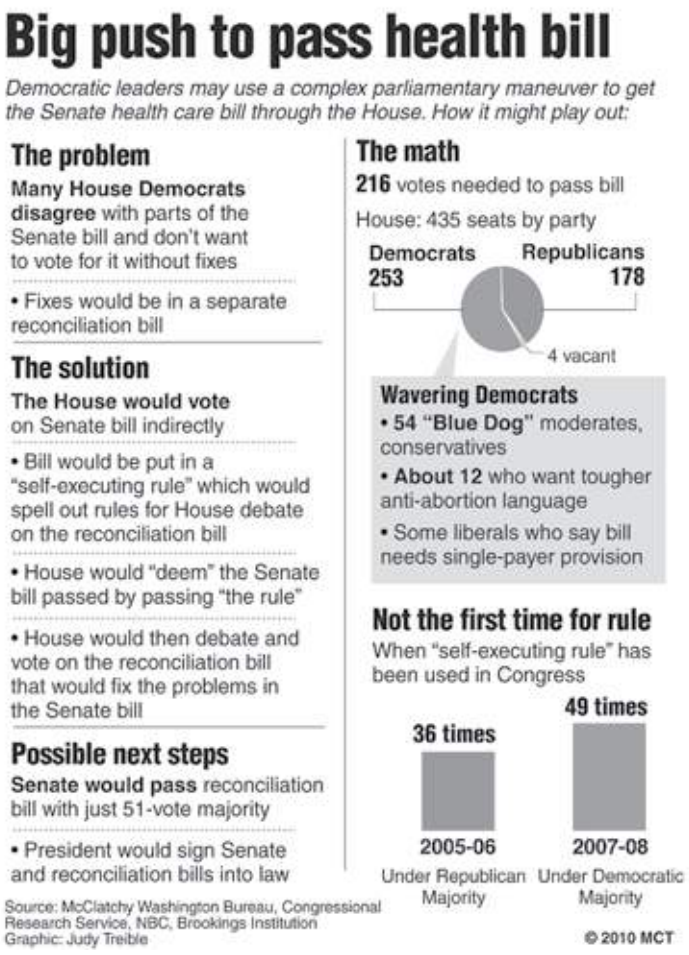
WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's sweeping health care legislation won precious support from a longtime liberal holdout in the House on Wednesday and from a retired Catholic bishop and nuns representing dozens of religious orders—gaining fresh traction ahead of a climactic weekend vote.

"That's a good sign," said Obama, two weeks after taking personal command of a campaign to enact legislation in what has become a virtual vote of confidence on his still-young presidency.

But Democrats delayed the planned release of formal legislation at least until Thursday as they sought to make sure it would reduce federal deficits annually over the next decade.

At the White House, Obama met with Richard Trumka, the head of the AFL-CIO. Officials said the labor leader raised concerns over the details of a planned excise tax on high-cost insurance plans as well as other elements of the as-yet-unreleased legislation.

The long-anticipated measure is actually the second of two bills that Obama hopes lawmakers will send him in coming days, more than a year after he urged Congress to remake the nation's health care system. The first cleared the Senate late last year but went no further because House Democrats demanded significant changes—the very types of revisions now being packaged into the second bill.


Big push to pass health bill
Democratic leaders may use a complex parliamentary maneuver to get the Senate health care bill through the House. How it might play out:
The problem
Many House Democrats disagree with parts of the Senate bill and don't want to vote for it without fixes
• Fixes would be in a separate reconciliation bill
The solution
The House would vote on Senate bill indirectly
• Bill would be put in a "self-executing rule" which would spell out rules for House debate on the reconciliation bill
• House would "deem" the Senate bill passed by passing "the rule"
• House would then debate and vote on the reconciliation bill that would fix the problems in the Senate bill
Possible next steps
Senate would pass reconciliation bill with just 51-vote majority
• President would sign Senate and reconciliation bills into law
The math
216 votes needed to pass bill
House: 435 seats by party
Democrats 253
Republicans 178
4 vacant
Wavering Democrats
• 54 "Blue Dog" moderates, conservatives
• About 12 who want tougher anti-abortion language
• Some liberals who say bill needs single-payer provision
Not the first time for rule
When "self-executing rule" has been used in Congress
36 times
49 times
2005-06
2007-08
Under Republican Majority
Under Democratic Majority
Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau, Congressional Research Service, NBC, Brookings Institution
Graphic: Judy Treible
© 2010 MCT

Obama's Asia trip more about influence than policy

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's second trip to Asia since taking office is unlikely to result in tangible accomplishments, but the two-country sojourn could be an important step in restoring U.S. influence in the region.

Obama

The economy, terrorism and climate change all figure to play prominently in Obama's stops in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, and Australia, a key U.S. ally and supporter of American military efforts in Afghanistan. Obama is the first U.S. president in at least a decade to travel to Southeast Asia for anything other than a regional summit, a move administration officials say reflects his efforts to strengthen relationships with smaller, emerging nations.

"There are a number of important middle powers, countries like Australia and Indonesia who are significant players," said Jeff Bader, the president's senior adviser for Asia.

Recent cases show challenge of US terrorists

WASHINGTON (AP)—The growing front in the war on terrorism may be no farther than Main Street. The terror cases that have emerged in the past week have one common characteristic: The suspects are all Americans.

One is a woman who looked after the elderly in suburban Pennsylvania. Another a security guard from New Jersey.

Altogether more than a dozen Americans have been captured or pursued for allegedly supporting jihad, or holy war, over the past two years. The cases demonstrate with increasing clarity what authorities have long known: The terrorist threat does not just come from the skies, far away, but from Hometown, U.S.A.

Some were inspired by the U.S. involvement in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, federal prosecutors said. Others, like the accused Pennsylvania woman, allegedly wanted to avenge what they considered an insult to the Prophet Muhammad. Many traveled overseas to get terrorist training. Some fomented plots on their computers in the comfort of their own homes.

There is no evidence that these cases are connected in any way. But they underscore the new reality that there is a threat from violent Islamic extremism from within the U.S. It is difficult to say whether the uptick in cases is because law enforcement has gotten better at catching suspects or if there are simply more to catch.

FBI special agent Brett Hovington said the government needs to do more scientific research around the country on why Americans are becoming radicalized and turning toward violent extremism.

ACROSS THE NATION

Calif. rape suspect lived by school for 16 months

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A convicted sex offender charged with murdering a California teenager lived near a preschool for at least 16 months before parole agents forced him to move, according to state corrections records released Wednesday. A regional administrator let John Albert Gardner III continue living within 126 yards of the San Diego County preschool until his lease expired in 2006, a top corrections official told The Associated Press. But no one noticed he was still living there until a year later. Assistant Secretary Oscar Hidalgo said there was confusion in part because of a change in parole agents.

Texas polygamist guilty of child sexual assault

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—Prosecutors say a member of a polygamist group whose sprawling West Texas ranch was raided in 2008 has been found guilty of sexual assault of a child. Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott says a jury convicted 35-year-old Merril Leroy Jessop on Wednesday in San Angelo. Jurors also found he violated Texas laws prohibiting bigamy. Prosecutors say Jessop tried to delete photos and other documents connecting him to the alleged underage bride.

Police say man fatally shoots wife at Wash. church

FEDERALWAY, Wash. (AP)—Police in Washington state say a man who accompanied his wife to a church for a counseling session shot the woman several times at the church, killing her. Federal Way police spokesman Raymond Bunk says the 42-year-old suspect called 911 to report the shooting and was arrested at the church on suspicion of homicide. Bunk says it wasn't immediately clear whether the shooting took place during or just after the counseling session.

Sheriff: Man sold his wife for sex on Craigslist

CHICAGO (AP)—A woman feared she'd never see her young child again unless she complied with her husband's scheme to sell her sexual services on Craigslist, authorities said Wednesday. After paid sexual encounters in eight states, the woman sought help by calling a national anti-sex trafficking hot line, said Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, who was notified of the woman's plight on March 11. Her desperate plea led to the arrest Sunday in Chicago of her husband, a 32-year-old Rockford, Minn., man. The Associated Press does not generally identify victims of sexual abuse and is not naming the man to avoid identifying his wife.

IN MEMORIAM

AVCM Master Chief Malcolm C. Weidner

July 21, 1938 • March 06, 2010

He now joins his:

Father:	†Charles Weidner
Brother:	†Fred Weidner
Father/Mother-in-law:	†Jesus A. and †Francisca W. Torres
Brothers-in-law:	†Juan W. & †Joseph W. Torres

He will be lovingly remembered by his:

Wife:	Rita W. Torres Weidner
Daughters:	Frances W. & Lamont Henderson (James, Kristen, Sina, Selena)
	Catherine Weidner & Isaac Ngirbabul (Ryan, Shannen)
Son:	Kyle Weidner
Mother:	Mrs. Blanche Jackson
Brothers:	Warren & Margie Weidner and Family
	Walter & Sandra Weidner and Family
Sister:	Blanche W. & Michael Morrison and Family
Brothers/Sisters –in-law:	
	Pedro W. & Margarita C. Torres and Family
	Jesus W. Torres and Family
	Francisco W. & Diana C. Torres and Family
	Bobbie A. Torres & Family
	Magdalena W. Torres & Martin Tenorio and Family
	Rosita C. Torres & Family
	James & Theresita T. Applebaum and Family
	Lawrence & Matilde T. Gozrulak and Family
	Dr. Vicente S. & Margarita Torres Aldan and Family
	Norman & Maria T. Peters and Family
	Roman W. Torres & Family
Special Friends:	†Ike & Dorothy Pereda
	Tony & Ann Duenas

He is additionally survived by numerous nieces & nephews.

Funeral Services for Master Chief Weidner will be on Monday, March 22, 2010 at Kristo Rai Church at 9:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will start at 11:00 a.m. Burial will be at Veterans Memorial Cemetary in Marpi, Saipan.

Thank you and Si Yuus Maase
Rita and Family

World

Thailand: Red Shirt protesters vow 'class war'

BANGKOK (AP)—Thousands of demonstrators remained encamped in the historic heart of the Thai capital Thursday, vowing to stir up a "class war" until the government is ousted.

A 2,000-vehicle protest rally through the streets of Bangkok was planned for Saturday, but Thursday appeared to be a rest day after four days of mass demonstrations and shock tactics like the pouring of human blood at the home of the prime minister and the seat of government.

Leaders of the "Red Shirt" protesters, who want Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to call new elections, said Wednesday they would scale back the size of their demonstrations in order to conserve energy and resources.

The decision to stay encamped in Bangkok is meant to keep up the pressure on Abhisit, who already has rejected several of the protesters' deadlines to dissolve Parliament.

"It will be the beginning of a class war," said Natthawut Saikua, among the protest leaders who have increasingly portrayed the demonstrations as a struggle between Thailand's impoverished, mainly rural masses and a Bangkok-based elite impervious to their plight.

The protesters also consist of supporters of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by a 2006 military coup for alleged corruption, and pro-democracy activists who opposed the army takeover. They believe Abhisit came to power illegitimately with the connivance of the military and other parts of the traditional ruling class and that only new elections can restore integrity to Thai democracy.

"I'm asking you to be patient for one more week. We will achieve true democracy and better lives for Thais all over the country. I understand that you must be tired, hot and hungry. Be patient for another seven days for our children's future," Thaksin told his supporters via a video link Wednesday night.

Memorial Eucharist Service

Beatrice Borja Peredo Troup

Familian Dasu

All family and friends are cordially invited to attend a Memorial Eucharist Service to celebrate her life.

The service will be held on Saturday, March 20th at 9:00am at the Saipan Community Church in Susupe.

Daughter of †Angelina Borja Peredo and †Jesus Taitano Pinuala

Survived by:

Her Husband: Mike Troup

Their Children and Spouses: Cirela and Jose Villagomez (Max)
Sonia And Hilbert San Nicholas (Brittany and Hilbert II)
Ken Taitano (Joe Brandon, Bianca, and Jonathon)
William Troup

Her brothers and sisters: Ana and Vic Vergerra (Pennysylvania)
Susana Rios and Mike Tokyo (Saipan)
Rosa Rios (Saipan)
Armando and Sarah Villafuerte (California)
Julius and Bessie Villafuerte (California)
Chris and Mely Villafuerte (Saipan)
Dorothy and Dana Kurtz (Colorado)

Special Friends: Antonio Aguon
Vic Dukor

Thank you and Si Yuus Maase
Mike Troup and Family

In Celebration of her new life

MARIA SALAS CAMACHO VAUGHN

"MARIA-N MANG"

Born to life on February 13, 1936. Called to eternal life on March 10, 2010

In her new life she now joins her:

Parents: Juan Taimanao Camacho & Maria Rabago Salas-Camacho (Maria-n Mang)
Spouse: Captain George N.M. Vaughn
Brothers: Vicente Salas Palacios (yan Isabel), Jose Salas Palacios (yan Didang)
Sons : Anthony Salas Camacho "Tonchi", Vernon Camacho Vaughn
Grandson : Jarrett Trent Maha'a
Brother-in-law : Fred Nosek
Sister: Ana Salas Palacios
Nephews : Estanislao Palacios & Joseph Palacios

Her memories will live in the hearts of her:

Children/ Spouses/ Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren:

Juan S. & Dolores C. Camacho: (Darrin Butteris & Doris Guerrero (Devon Jordan, Desmond Isaiah, & Dakota Marley), Liela C. & Dante Yumul (Ayden Sean), Peter Camacho & Eva P. Calvo (Peter Ryan, Edward John, Deion Xavier, & Danika Shaye), Nasia Camacho & Craig Sanchez (Yvannah Maria & Savannah Margarita), & Juan C. Camacho Jr.

Georgia C. Vaughn: Calvin Daniel Burrage & Brianna Christina Burrage (Aioni Rena)

George C. & Joanne Vaughn: Lauren & Scott Russell (Wyatt Riley), Nolan Daniel Vaughn, Haley Marie Vaughn, & Christina & Kevin Tajalle (Mandy, Xadrian, & Amelia)

Johanna Vaughn & Baldwin Badiango: Luise & Patrick Sanchez (Zoe Rae, Tihanna, Patrick Jr., & Vaughn Joseph), Merced Johanna Villagomez, & Joseph Manuel Villagomez

Maryann C. Vaughn & Rie Cabrera: Shantel Santos & Jonathan Sanchez (Ave'ah Lashea, Devye Jon, Tae'ah Deshea, & Tiah'Dea Teshea) & Robert Fernandez Jr.

Annabelle C. Vaughn & Jeannot Maha'a: Kayleen & Joey Flores (Joleen, Francisca, Kayleana, Joziah, & Kaileah), Jacoby Travis Maha'a, & Jeannot Maha'a Jr.

Candice B. & Jose A. Ananich: Drake Richard Torres, Thomas John Ananich, & Tatiana Monique Ananich

Grandson: **Jeffrey Camacho**

Brothers/Sisters & In-Laws:

Antonio Salas Camacho/ Elphidia P. Camacho & Kids
Juan Salas Camacho (yan Josephine) & Kids
Carmen Salas Camacho-Nosek & Kids
Luis Salas Camacho/ Fermina M. Camacho & Kids

**** Additionally survived by numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.**

Daily mass is being offered at Kristo Rai Parish in Garapan at 6:00 a.m. Rosary is being held nightly at the Kristo Rai Parish at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, March 20, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz in Garapan to the Kristo Rai Parish. Final viewing will be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:00 p.m. followed by Interment at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you and Si Yuus Ma'ase From the family

WORLD BRIEFS

Haiti parents take back kids given to missionaries

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Joyful parents on Wednesday recovered the children that they gave to American missionaries about six weeks ago. The 33 children had been living at the SOS Orphanage on Port-au-Prince's outskirts since police stopped a group of 10 U.S. Baptist missionaries from taking them across the Dominican border Jan. 29 following Haiti's devastating earthquake. Orphanage officials said all but one of the children were given back to 22 families. A remaining child, whose age and gender were not given, is awaiting further verification of her parents' identities.

Fear grips Mexican border families amid violence

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—Elodia Ortiz drops her children at school in the morning, picks them up in the afternoon and makes an occasional trip to the supermarket. Anything else, she says, is too dangerous. Parents in Ciudad Juarez, just across the border from El Paso, Texas, are afraid to venture into the streets amid a turf war between two powerful drug cartels that has left more than 4,500 people dead during the past two years. Their fears spiked last weekend when hit men attacked two white SUVs leaving a birthday party, killing parents from two U.S. Consulate families in front of their screaming children.

Pakistani court charges 5 Americans with terrorism

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani court charged five young Americans on Wednesday with planning terrorist attacks in the South Asian country and conspiring to wage war against nations allied with Pakistan, their defense lawyer said. The men—all Muslims from the Washington suburb of Alexandria, Virginia—pleaded not guilty to a total of five charges, the most severe of which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison, defense lawyer Hasan Dastagir told The Associated Press. "My clients were in good shape and high spirits," Dastagir said.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Drunk teacher allegedly bites man's ear in attack

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—A middle school teacher was accused of biting off part of a man's ear during a confrontation at a St. Paul diner. Prosecutors said the 30-year-old woman was drunk when she attacked the man at the Uptowner about 4 a.m. Sunday. A criminal complaint said the 33-year-old man was eating with friends when one made a comment about one of the women with the suspect. The complaint says the suspect approached the group of men, licked the victim's ear, then bit off part of it.

AG: Mass. dentist used paper clips in root canals

FALL RIVER, Mass. (AP)—A former Massachusetts dentist is accused of placing paper clips instead of stainless steel posts inside the teeth of root canal patients while billing Medicaid for the more expensive parts. The state attorney general announced Tuesday that a grand jury indicted former Fall River dentist Michael Clair last week. The charges include assault and battery, larceny, submitting false claims to Medicaid and illegally prescribing drugs. Prosecutors say Clair was suspended by Medicaid in 2002. He allegedly hired other dentists for his clinic and filed claims under their numbers between August 2003 and June 2005. He's also accused of illegally prescribing drugs to staffers who returned medications to him. Clair is to be arraigned April 8. He now lives in Maryland.

Sleeping man shocked after cold man jumps into bed

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Police said a man broke into a Pittsburgh home and climbed into bed with its owner, apparently because he was drunk and cold following a rap concert. Homeowner Frank Fontana says he was in bed when the man climbed in about 5:30 Wednesday morning. Fontana says he asked whether it was a woman who has keys to his home—and he grabbed a baseball bat when a deep male voice answered, "No, it's not." Police said Fontana kept the man at bay until police arrived but didn't hit him with the bat. Police say the intruder told them he was looking for shelter after a Tuesday night concert by rapper Jay-Z at the Mellon Arena.

Rescue redux: Pooch plucked twice from NY ice

WESTFIELD, N.Y. (AP)—If Koozie the dog were a cat she would be down to seven lives. The 8-year-old mix-breed pooch had to be rescued—not once, but twice—from the broken-up ice of Lake Erie off western New York. Koozie wandered away from her owner's home outside Buffalo and was spotted Monday night about 30 miles away, trapped on the ice off Westfield. An Erie County Sheriff's Department helicopter was summoned, but the rescue effort was put off until Tuesday morning, when a crew member was lowered in a basket and plucked Koozie from the ice. After being brought to shore, the dog trotted back out onto the ice and had to be rescued a second time by the helicopter crew.

Police: La. man denied beer run gets very testy

THIBODAUX, La. (AP)—A 25-year-old man did not take his inability to get more beer well. Lafourche sheriff's spokeswoman Lesley Hill Peters said the man was accused of breaking furniture and throwing a beer bottle at a woman after she refused to give him car keys so he could buy more beer on Monday night. The Courier reported Wednesday that the man admitted to deputies he'd been drinking before the argument with the alleged 29-year-old victim. The suspect was booked with aggravated assault and disturbing the peace. He was freed from the Lafourche Parish jail on a $350 bond. Peters said the man did not hit the alleged victim with the beer bottle.

In Celebration of Her New Life

MARGARITA ATALIG CASTRO

Date of Birth: June 10, 1950
Died: March 15, 2010

Husband:	Joaquin Quichocho Castro
Children:	Xavier A. Castro/Williemae D. Castro (Maiana; Samaya; Lorenzo) Deanna C. Sablan/Philip G. Sablan (Jordan; Reece; Nathaniel) Dionne A. Castro (Kiara) Donnalynn A. Castro/Joseph T. Camacho (Tori; Ava) Christopher A. Castro
Father:	†Andres Camacho Atalig
Mother:	†Maria Manglona Atalig
Brothers:	†Antonio M. & Florence Atalig & family David M. & Corazon Atalig & family
Sisters:	Angelina A. & Jim Hiyane & family Rosa A. & Ray Jasper & family Fermina A. & Jesse Castro & family Esther A. & Mike Ross & family Alice A. & John Mereb & family
Father-in-law:	†Segundo DLC Castro
Mother-in-law:	Virginia Quichocho Castro
Brothers-in-law:	Jesus Q. Castro, Gregorio Q. Castro & family, Jose Q. & Connie Castro & family, Alfredo Q. & Margarita Castro & family, Jun Q. & Celina Castro & family, Lee Q. & Cherry Castro & family, Kevin Q. Castro
Sisters-in-law:	Anicia C. & Jess Sonoda & family, Lillian C. & Bruce Blanton & family, Magdalena C. & Ray Taitano & family, Rosalyn C. & Jesse Quintanilla & family, Celina C. & Richard Farrel & family
Special Friends:	†Robert S. Calvo, Jr. and kids

Additionally survived by numerous aunties, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, godsons, and goddaughters.

Mass on Saipan is held at St. Jude Church at Koblerville at 6:00 P.M., Saturday at 7:00 AM, and Sunday at 8:00 AM. Mass on Rota is being held at San Isidro Church, at Sinapalo, at 7:00 PM, and 8:00 AM on Sunday. On Monday, March 22, on Saipan, viewing will be offered at Borja Funeral Home from 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM. Thereafter, the remains will be flown to Rota. On Tuesday, March 23, at Rota, viewing of the remains will be between 7:00AM to 10:00 AM, at San Francisco de Borja Church, in Songsong Village. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 AM followed by the burial.

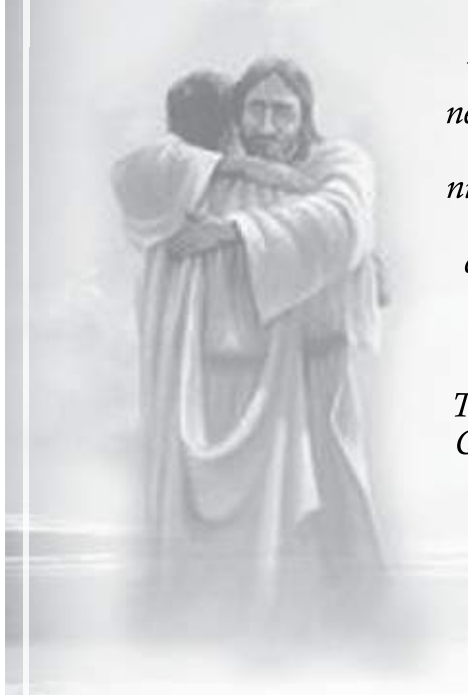
The family of the late Margarita Atalig Castro wish to express a sincere Thank You, Si Yuus Ma'ase, and Maraming Salamat for all your thoughts and prayers.

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

We, the family of the late

†JUANITA SABLAN MENDIOLA FLEMING

(Juanitan Damoa)



Wish to extend our sincerest appreciation to all our relatives and friends from near and far, for all the genuine compassion you have extended to us during her time of sickness, death, and funeral services. Your presence with us at the nightly rosaries and during the Mass of Christian Burial were very comforting. Your sympathy, prayers, and kind words of comfort has greatly helped us to endure the grief and sorrow of our loss at the passing of our beloved into the caring hands of our creator.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to his most Excellency Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Tan Ko Palacios and all the clergy, our techa Aunty Rita Guerrero, Cabrera Funeral Home, Dr. Ada and Staff, Medical Referral Office (CNMI & Hawaii), Aunty Mag's Kitchen, Mike Fleming & Felix Sablan (and Crew), Mayor Donald Flores & Staff and to ALL those who have helped and contributed in one way or another.

A sincere appreciation for all your kind expressions of love, thoughtfulness, personal assistance, and unending support during this difficult time. As you had remembered our beloved MOM in your prayers, please be assured that we will also remember you and your loved ones in ours.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Thank You, and God Bless

The Family

Science & Technology

Texan accused of disabling 100 cars over Internet

DALLAS (AP)—A man fired from a Texas auto dealership used an Internet service to remotely disable ignitions and set off car horns of more than 100 vehicles sold at his old workplace, police said Wednesday.

Austin police arrested Omar Ramos-Lopez, 20, on Wednesday, charging him with felony breach of computer security.

Ramos-Lopez used a former colleague's password to deactivate starters and set off car horns, police said. Several car owners said they had to call tow trucks and were left stranded at work or home.

"He caused these customers, now victims, to miss work," Austin police spokeswoman Veneza Aguinaga said. "They didn't get paid. They had to get tow trucks. They didn't know what was going on with their vehicles."

Ramos-Lopez was in the Travis County Jail on Wednesday with bond set at $3,000. The Associated Press could not find a working phone number for his family.

The Texas Auto Center dealership in Austin installs GPS devices that can prevent cars from starting. The system is used to repossess cars when buyers are overdue on payments, said Jeremy Norton, a controller at the dealership where Ramos-Lopez worked. Car horns can be activated when repo agents go to collect vehicles and believe the owners are hiding them.

"We are taking extra measures to make sure this never happens again," Norton said.

Starting in mid-February, dealership employees noticed unusual changes to their business records. Someone was going into the system and changing customers' names, such as having dead rapper Tupac Shakur buying a 2009 vehicle, Norton said.

Soon, customers began calling saying their cars wouldn't start, or that their horns were going off incessantly, forcing them to disengage the battery. Norton said the dealership originally thought the cars had mechanical problems.

Then employees noticed someone had ordered $130,000 in parts and equipment from the company that makes the GPS devices.

Police said they were able to trace the sabotage to Ramos-Lopez's computer, leading to his arrest.

Norton said Ramos-Lopez didn't seem unusually upset about being fired.

"I think he thought what he was doing was a harmless prank," Norton said. "He didn't see the ramifications of it."

STUMP THE GEEKS

Manually streamlining reboot takes time, research

By ANNE KRISHNAN
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

QUESTION: I'm trying to speed up my computer by eliminating unnecessary programs that run at startup. In a previous column, you described how to use msconfig to determine what programs were running at reboot. How do you determine what programs are necessary or appropriate to be running? I followed the instructions and got a list of programs that I've never heard of.—J.Y.

ANSWER: Speeding up the computer by adjusting things using msconfig can have a positive impact, but it is time-consuming to do and usually requires you to research every item to determine whether it is required, said Joe Vohwinkel, president of Agave Partners Consulting in Raleigh.

He usually Googles the program in question, such as iexplore.exe. There are many sites that will provide all of the details about the program and whether it is required, he said.

Many of the sites are designed to identify spyware and viruses and advertise proprietary solutions. Take the sales pitch with a grain of salt, but a couple of sites that look useful for research are www.processlibrary.com and tasklist.org.

Uniblue, which publishes processlibrary.com, also has a neat free download on the site that can scan all the processes running on your computer and tell you outright what programs are associated with them.

Using either approach, you should be able to see which are connected with software you want to use and which might be malware.

But targeting individual processes is not always a lasting solution, Vohwinkel said. When you run a program, it often adds removed entries back into the starting lineup.

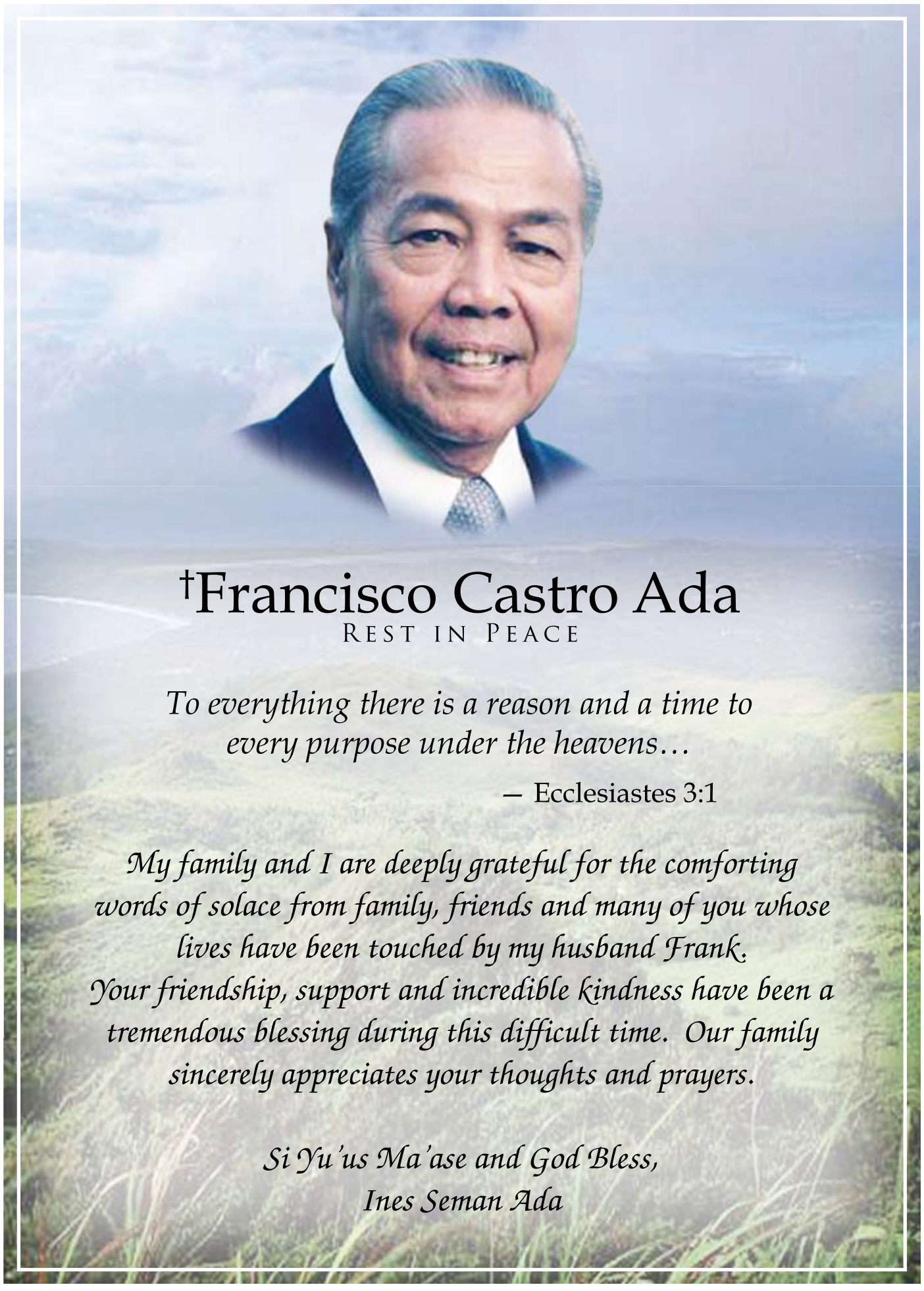
Instead, he recommends using the add/remove software option from the control panel to review everything that is installed and remove programs that are not needed or used often. To get there, click on the "Start" button, then "Control Panel" and finally "Add or Remove Programs."

You'll now see a list of the programs installed on your computer. Click on them to see how big they are and how often you use them.

There really is no reason to have three and four audio players installed, as often happens, Vohwinkel said. Likewise, all of the search engines want to install toolbars in users' Web browsers. You should be able to remove them using the same tool.

"Most people don't need any, much less three," Vohwinkel said.

Finally, many programs have options to periodically check for updates. All of these updaters begin every time the computer starts up, he said. Check the settings in the individual programs to turn off these auto updaters.


†Francisco Castro Ada
Rest in Peace
To everything there is a reason and a time to every purpose under the heavens…
— Ecclesiastes 3:1
My family and I are deeply grateful for the comforting words of solace from family, friends and many of you whose lives have been touched by my husband Frank. Your friendship, support and incredible kindness have been a tremendous blessing during this difficult time. Our family sincerely appreciates your thoughts and prayers.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase and God Bless,
Ines Seman Ada

In Humble Gratitude
We, the family of the late
†Verena Marie Tudela Cabrera
wish to express our sincere and profound gratitude to each and everyone of our relatives and friends, who came to join us in daily masses of intentions and the nightly rosaries in remembrance of her passage unto eternal life.
Our special thanks to Fr. Celso Magbanua for assisting in the eucharistic celebration and to Greg Sablan for leading us in prayer at the nightly rosaries and to all those who joined us in prayers near or far.
We are truly blessed to have your love, comfort, support and kindness. We are grateful to all of you, and you will always be in our hearts and prayers.
Thank you and Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
Joaquin Mitch I. Pangelinan/Carmen T. Cabrera
Children and Family

Life & Style

British poet laureate pens ode to injured Beckham

LONDON (AP)—O Beckham, where art thou?

David Beckham has become an unlikely muse to Britain's poet laureate, who has written a verse about the soccer star's career-threatening injury.

The former England captain tore his Achilles tendon in a game on Sunday and will miss the World Cup in June as he recovers from surgery.

Carol Ann Duffy's poem imagines Beckham as the ancient Greek hero Achilles, who according to myth was dipped as a baby in the River Styx, making him invulnerable—except for his exposed heel, the origin of the modern terms Achilles tendon, and Achilles heel.

The poem weaves the mythical story together with references to Beckham's life, including his marriage to former Spice Girl Victoria Beckham and his experimental fashion sense. It speaks of the hero concealed "in girls' sarongs; days of sweetmeats, spices, silver songs."

It describes him on the field, "his charmed foot on the ball."

"But then his heel, his heel, his heel..."

Duffy told the BBC Tuesday she was inspired because Beckham "is almost a mythical figure himself, in popular culture."

Beckham's injury shattered his hopes of becoming the first English player to appear in four World Cups and put the 34-year-old player's future on the national team in doubt.

Duffy, a soccer fan, said she had been moved by the image of Beckham in tears at the side of the pitch after his injury.

Drunken thief takes singer Justin Moore's guitar

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country singer Justin Moore knows his fans can get rowdy—maybe sometimes to a fault.

The singer says a drunken fan stole one of his guitars at a Michigan concert, but eventually returned Moore's favorite Gibson guitar worth about $4,000 after the fan realized it was a drunken mistake.

Moore alerted fans on Twitter and a DJ posted the news about the stolen guitar on Detroit's WYCD Web site. Moore's tour manager also contacted the Royal Oak, Mich., police department, but charges were never filed.

On Sunday, the anonymous crook had a friend deliver the guitar to the radio station.

"Everybody was probably having a good time," Moore said. "And in an inebriated state he goes, 'Hey, that'd be cool if we had Justin's guitar.' When you wake up the next morning with a splitting headache, and go, 'Oh, crap. What did I do?' Thank god he had that conscience."

Moore, 26, said the apology note that came with the guitar was hilarious.

"Everybody's got drunk and made stupid mistakes," Moore said. "Heck, I've got a song on my record, which he actually referenced, about making all kinds of idiotic mistakes. The thing I'll say, though, is everybody don't always own up to it and make it right."

For the record, the song is "How I Got To Be This Way."

If Moore were to meet the guy at a future show, he said he wouldn't hold a grudge.

Antonio Banderas appointed UN Goodwill Ambassador

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Spanish actor Antonio Banderas has been named a U.N. Goodwill Ambassador for the fight against poverty, the United Nations Development Program announced Wednesday.

Banderas

In his new role as an advocate for the poor, Antonio Banderas will set his sights on the Millennium Development Goals, a set of eight globally agreed targets that seek to halve world poverty by 2015 by combating hunger, disease, illiteracy, environment degradation and discrimination against women.

"Poverty robs us of our potential as a people, preventing us from being all that we can be," Banderas said in a statement. "This is why it is so important to mobilize all of our efforts to defeat it, especially if today we have the knowledge, the tools and the resources to do it."

Banderas said he will work to spur action at all levels of society with a particular focus on Africa and Latin America.

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark said she looks forward to Banderas raising awareness globally on issues related to combatting poverty. "UNDP is pleased to have Antonio join our group of Goodwill Ambassadors," Clark said. "His proven commitment to the causes of the less fortunate makes him an ideal advocate for our work."

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LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – 13 Fishermen Pavilion
Tinian: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Tachog'na Beach
Rota: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Téteto Beach

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Repo Men
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:45
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:20 9:45
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Jude Law, Forest Whitaker
Science Fiction • Rated R
Synopsis
Writers Eric Garcia and Garrett Lerner team with director Miguel Sapochnik to adapt Garcia's novel about a repo man named Remy whose body has been constructed almost entirely of artificial organs. When Remy (Jude Law) fails to keep up on payments for his recent heart transplant, his former partner vows to take back the organ by force if necessary. Meanwhile, Remy finds an unexpected ally in the form of his long-lost wife, Beth (Sonia Braga), who has also been retrofitted with numerous artificial organs.

Diary of Wimpy Kid
Friday 4:10 7:30 9:35
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:35
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
Zachary Gordon, Steven Zahn
Children's, Family • Rated PG
Synopsis
Hotel for Dogs' director Thor Freudenthal helms the adaptation of Jeff Kinney's acclaimed Diary of a Wimpy Kid comics with this Fox 2000 production. Zachary Gordon starring as the titular character, with Steve Zahn, Rachael Harris, Robert Capron, and Devon Bostick filling out the rest of the cast.

The Green Zone
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:25 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Matt Damon, Greg Kinnear
Drama • Rated R
Synopsis
United 93 director Paul Greengrass explores the aftermath of the Iraq invasion in this feature adaptation of author Rajiv Chandrasekaran's literary exposé of the same name. A one-time Baghdad bureau chief of the Washington Post, Chandrasekaran was present as American forces attempted to set up a provisional government on the grounds surrounding former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's opulent palace. The resulting governing body, according to critics, existed in a bubble so far removed from the grim realities of the Iraq War that it failed to properly assess the needs of the people.

Remember Me
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Robert Pattinson, Emilie de Ravin
Drama • Rated PG 13

She's Out Of My League
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:40
Saturday 1:30 4:20 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:30 4:20 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:10
Jay Baruchel, Alice Eve
Comedy • Rated R

Alice in Wonderland
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:30
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway
Fantasy • Rated PG

Dear John
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:55
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:55
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Channing Tatum, Amanda Seyfried
Drama • Rated PG 13

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First 'American Idol' finalist booted

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lacey Brown is down and out on "American Idol."

The 24-year-old event coordinator from Amarillo, Texas, was the first finalist eliminated from the ninth season of the Fox singing competition Wednesday. Brown, who turned in a lackluster rendition of the Rolling Stones' "Ruby Tuesday" on Tuesday's performance show, failed to impress the judges with a last-minute performance of Brandi Carlile's "The Story."

"I had a lot of people tell me maybe go the country route or something like that," the teary-eyed pixie-haired singer told host Ryan Seacrest after her dismissal. "I'm willing to keep working. I'm not going to stop singing. I'm going to keep singing for my fans and for myself because I love to do this, so I'm excited for the future."

At the beginning of Wednesday's show, Simon Cowell revealed the return of the judge's save. Introduced last season, the one-time-only power allows the show's panel to rescue a contestant from being eliminated until the top five finalists have been selected. If they unanimously agree, no singer is eliminated that week but two will be sent packing the next week.

Top 12 American Idol contestant Crystal Bowersox, center, works with Ford Designer Dean Carbis as contestant Didi Benami looks on to create a theme for their customized Ford Fiesta that fits with their personalities and musical inspirations, using color, custom body graphics, wheel treatments and other accessories, March 5, 2010 in Los Angeles.

AP

Trump is reviving 'Apprentice' with regular folks

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump isn't firing "The Celebrity Apprentice," but he's bringing back the regular edition of the show with 14 ordinary job-hunters plagued by the economic crisis.

NBC and Trump said Wednesday they want to put America back to work with the show, which is expected to air this fall.

The original civilian version of "The Apprentice" premiered in 2004, then two years ago was replaced by the "Celebrity Apprentice" format.

Trump

"But since the economy went down the tubes, people have been saying, 'Would it be possible to bring back the original?" Trump said. "In a way, it's more important now than when we first did it."

Trump's revived "Apprentice" will recruit candidates who have lost their jobs, are stuck with jobs they don't like just to get by or have finished college with no offers in sight.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Bullock backs out of premiere for personal reasons

NEW YORK (AP)—Sandra Bullock has canceled her appearance at the London premiere of "The Blind Side" almost two weeks after winning a Best Actress Academy Award for her performance in the movie. The 45-year-old actress says in a statement released by Warner Bros. UK that she can't attend the event for "unforeseen personal reasons." She goes on to apologize for canceling her commitment and to thank people for their support of the film. The London premiere is scheduled for Tuesday.

149 drug arrests in NJ city Conan O'Brien mocked

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Authorities are hailing the arrests of 149 people in one of New Jersey's most dangerous cities, which Conan O'Brien mocked on NBC's "Tonight Show." Mayor Cory Booker announced the arrests Wednesday outside the notorious Academy Spires apartment complex in Newark, just west of New York City. Twenty-eight arrests Wednesday morning capped a six-month drug investigation focusing on the complex. Seven guns, $15,000 in cash and $25,000 worth of drugs were seized. Undercover officers made numerous drug buys at the complex. Booker says police will stay there "for as long as it takes." Booker has tried to clean up Newark, which has been blighted by unemployment and shocking violence such as the execution-style slayings of three college-bound students in 2007. O'Brien donated $100,000 last September after joking Booker's health care program consisted of a bus ticket out.

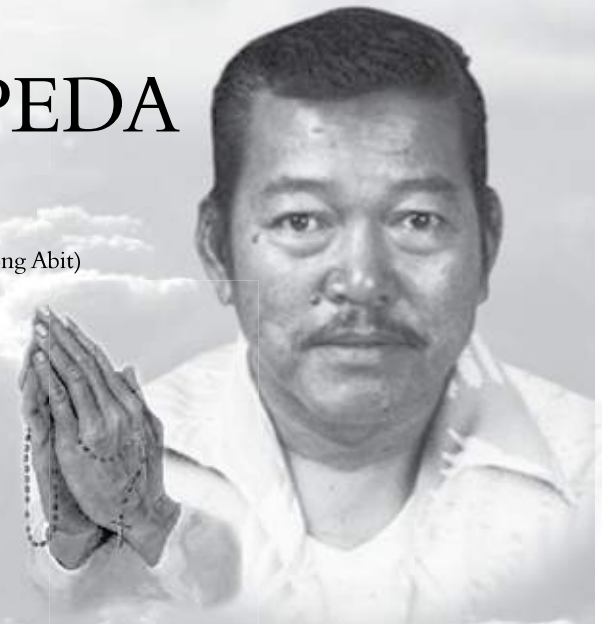
3 histories receive Bancroft Prize

NEWYORK (AP)—Biographies of Abigail Adams and Depression-era photographer Dorothea Lange are among the winners of the prestigious Bancroft Prize for history. Columbia University announced Wednesday that three authors will each receive $10,000 for the Bancroft. The prize goes to Linda Gordon for "Dorothea Lange: A Life Beyond Limits"; Woody Holton for "Abigail Adams"; and Margaret D. Jacobs for "White Mother to a Dark Race: Settler Colonialism, Maternalism, and the Removal of Indigenous Children in the American West and Australia, 1880-1940." Previous winners of the Bancroft, founded in 1948, include John Dower's "Embracing Defeat" and Sean Wilentz's "The Rise of American Democracy."

In Celebration of His New Life

FELIX AGULTO CEPEDA

Better Known as "Eli"
November 12, 1941 – March 16, 2010



Predeceased by:	
Father:	†Jose Iglecias Cepeda
Mother:	†Consolacion Concepcion Agulto Santos (Chong Abit)
Stepfather:	†Albert Torres Santos
Brother:	†Antonio Agulto Cepeda
Sister:	†Maria Agulto Cepeda
Reared Father:	†Joaquin Duenas Cepeda (Kindu Tona)
Reared Brother:	†Ignacio Babauta Cepeda
Survived by:	
Wife:	Doris Evarrola Cepeda
Children:	Alvin C. / Connie Cepeda and children
	Jennifer C. / Francisco Faisao and children
	Felix C. / Andrea Cepeda and children
	Mario C. & Janelle Cepeda
	Jennelyn C. / Sherman Camacho and children
	Jason C. / Alice Cepeda and children
	Monique E. Cepeda & Simeon Camacho
	Desiree E. Cepeda
	Yuri E. Cepeda
Sister:	Ramona A. Santos
Brother In-Law:	William (Bill) G. Evarrola
Reared Mother:	Paulina Babauta Cepeda
Reared Brothers & Sisters:	Felix B. & Linda V. Cepeda
	Anthony B. Cepeda
	Juan B. & Paticia V. Cepeda
	Lulu C. & George Sutherland
	Thomas B. Cepeda
	Akit C. & Carlos C. Camacho
	Ramon B. & Lourdes A. Cepeda
	Jose B. & Cora S. Cepeda
	Lisa C. & Juan Q. Camacho
	Ramona C. & Fritz R. Lizama
1st Wife:	Bernadita R. Cabrera

Additionally survived by his Great-Grandchildren, numerous Nieces and Nephews, Cousins, Aunties, Uncles, Brothers and Sister In-Laws.

Daily Mass of intention is being said nightly at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church in Koblerville, followed immediately by nightly rosary.

On March 24, 2010. His body will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center (CHC) at 7:30 a.m. to Mt. Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. and interment service will follow immediately at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Chalan Kanoa.

Family-owned business puts family first in tough times

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a career woman, working for a family-owned business. Last year was difficult because there have been a number of layoffs and no raises. When I had my annual review, I received an outstanding evaluation but was again told no raise would be forthcoming because business is slow.

I could understand this because of the current economy if the owners of the company weren't taking expensive vacations and buying new luxury cars.

I have a hard time accepting there's no money for raises when they spend so extravagantly. I understand it's not my business how they spend their money, but it's difficult to swallow when I feel so taken advantage of. I'm not the only one here feeling the way I do, and it's beginning to create a hostile environment. Am I wrong to feel this way?

BITTER IN THE NORTHEAST

DEAR BITTER: If your employers are claiming poverty while indulging in conspicuous consumption, your feelings are understandable. And as soon as the job market improves, I'm sure you will be only a part of the stampede of fellow employees seeking another job. With your outstanding reviews it shouldn't be too difficult to find one. Bide your time ...

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is being married in the fall and she has asked me to be her matron of honor. She has been through a lot, and I have supported her all the way. She says I am the only one who had faith in her, encouraged her and loved her no matter what.

Are moms supposed to be in their daughters' weddings? She doesn't want her dad in the wedding, so this makes it difficult. I am honored that she wants me to be her matron of honor. If her dad isn't in the wedding, should I be in it? I don't want any hard feelings from the other family members, but my daughter is determined to have me as her matron of honor.

DONNA IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR DONNA: If what your daughter said is true, and you were the only one who had faith in her and loved her unconditionally, then you should accept her offer to stand with her at the altar. And yes, it has been done before.

DEAR ABBY: I am a freelance writer who works from home. I have flexibility when it comes to my work hours, but I decide that on my own terms. I have lost count of the number of times friends and family have asked me to baby-sit, have lunch or go out shopping with them because, according to them, writing isn't "real work" and working from home means having no fixed hours.

Last week my husband called me from his office and asked me to bring him some documents he had forgotten at home. When I realized it wasn't urgent, I told him no and that he had interrupted my train of thought. He has been sulking for days. Was I wrong?

In this digital age, with more people working from home, it still means adhering to a schedule. Oh, and one more thing—please remind your readers that writing is very much a REAL job.

FREELANCE WRITER IN TENNESSEE

DEAR FREELANCE WRITER: Consider it done. Writing requires concentration, and it IS a very real job. However, you may be bringing some of your problems on yourself by not informing your friends and family that you write between certain hours every day. And an effective way to isolate yourself and ensure you won't be interrupted by annoying phone calls would be to turn your phone off during the hours that you're writing.

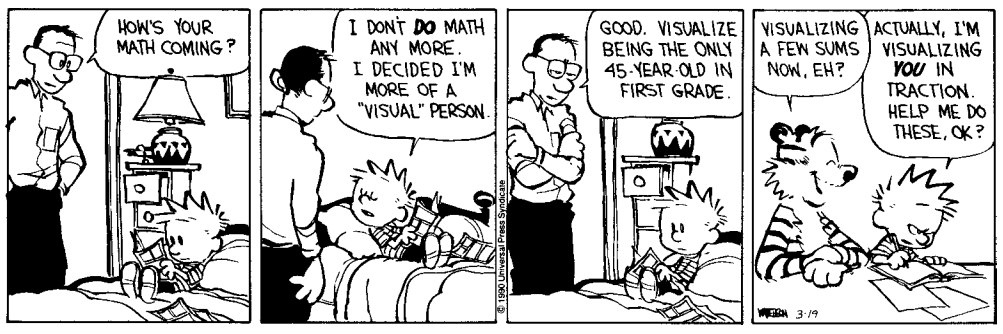
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

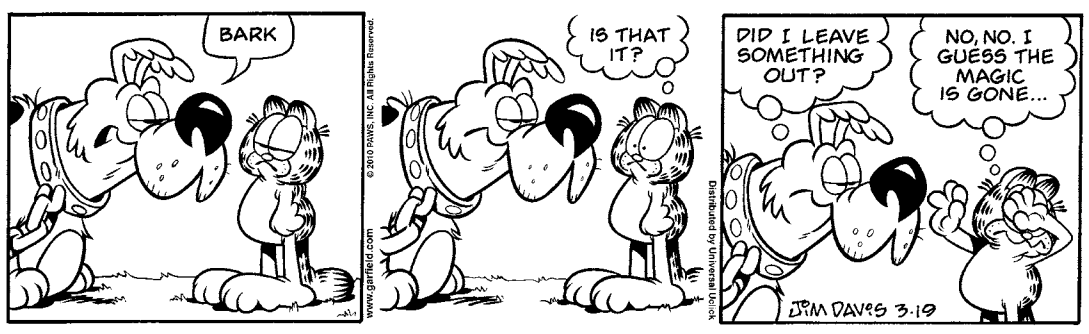
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOW'S YOUR MATH COMING?
I DON'T DO MATH ANY MORE. I DECIDED I'M MORE OF A "VISUAL" PERSON.
GOOD. VISUALIZE BEING THE ONLY 45-YEAR-OLD IN FIRST GRADE.
VISUALIZING A FEW SUMS NOW, EH?
ACTUALLY, I'M VISUALIZING YOU IN TRACTION. HELP ME DO THESE, OK?
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
WATTERSON 3-19

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


BARK
IS THAT IT?
DID I LEAVE SOMETHING OUT?
NO, NO. I GUESS THE MAGIC IS GONE...
© 2010 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick
JIM DAVIS 3-19

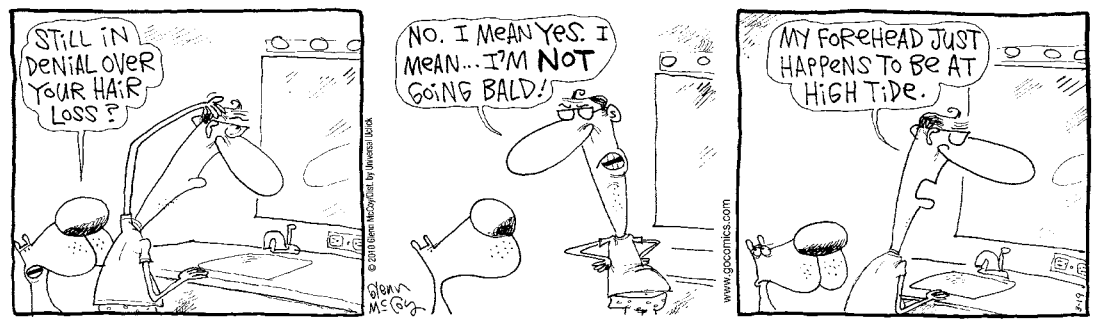
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

MOM, DOES DAD SEEM KINDA DOWN TO YOU?
A LITTLE BIT, HONEY. HE'S FEELING HIS AGE.
WELL, YOU GUYS ARE GETTING KIND OF OLD.
HMM. MAYBE YOU SHOULD WALK FROM HERE.
WHAT!? WE'RE THREE MILES FROM HOME!
DON'T WORRY. IT'S MOSTLY DOWNHILL.
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
3/19

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


STILL IN DENIAL OVER YOUR HAIR LOSS?
NO. I MEAN YES. I MEAN... I'M NOT GOING BALD!
MY FOREHEAD JUST HAPPENS TO BE AT HIGH TIDE.
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Penny prez
4 Greet the villain
7 Drive away
12 Auto
13 Dadaist Jean
14 Adult insect
15 Storm center
16 Heart of a tennis racket
18 Sinbad's flyer
19 Avis competitor
20 Act like a goat
22 Varnish ingredient
23 Understands
27 Piercing tool
29 "Yay!"
31 Texas mission
34 Headstrong?
35 Universe
37 Menagerie
38 Get a glimpse of
39 "Entourage" character
41 Fumble
45 39-Across, e.g.
47 Mauna —
48 Old-time prospector
52 Every last bit
53 Leaked slowly
54 Vast expanse
55 "Mayday!"
56 Taylor or Tyler
57 Mess up
58 Away from WSW

DOWN
1 Tart in tone
2 Louisiana marsh
3 Upright
4 Wild party
5 "1984" author
6 Phantom's bailiwick
7 Cracker name
8 911 responder (Abbr.)
9 Political patronage
10 Id counterpart
11 Sodom evacuee
17 Engrave
21 Debbie Reynolds role
23 Bridezilla's tolerator
24 Detergent brand
25 Highland headgear
26 Timid
28 Court
30 Roswell sighting
31 Expert
32 Part of UCLA
33 Venomous viper
36 Palm starch
37 Barb
40 Get extra value from
42 Decree
43 Criminal
44 Quiz answer, maybe
45 Tosses in
46 "— she blows!"
48 Scatter seeds
49 Reaction to fireworks
50 Submachine gun
51 — U.S. Pat. Off.

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	S	S		H	A	R	D		F	I	S	T
B	A	T		O	L	I	O		O	N	C	E
S	C	A	L	L	I	O	N		O	D	O	R
		L	E	D		T	O	P	D	O	W	N
R	E	L	I	E	F		R	A	W			
I	C	I		R	A	M		S	E	P	T	S
F	R	O	M		Q	E	D		B	A	W	L
T	U	N	E	S		D	O	C		V	I	A
			G	A	P		W	O	O	I	N	G
A	L	M	A	N	A	C		N	I	L		
B	A	I	T		G	A	N	G	L	I	O	N
L	I	M	O		E	P	E	E		O	R	E
E	D	E	N		D	O	O	R		N	O	W

Yesterday's answer 3-19

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	10	11
12			■	13			■	14				
15			■	16			17					
18			■	19					■	■	■	■
20			21	■	22			■	23	24	25	26
■	■	■	27	28		■	29	30				
31	32	33			■	■	■	34				
35					36	■	37			■	■	■
38				■	39	40		■	41	42	43	44
■	■	■	■	45				46	■	47		
48	49	50	51						■	52		
53					■	54			■	55		
56					■	57			■	58		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bruce Willis, 55; Glenn Close, 63; Ursula Andress, 74; Phyllis Newman, 77

Happy Birthday: Don't let the little things get to you. Opportunities are available and it's important that you recognize what's being offered and act on it. Once you realize who your allies are, you will prosper personally, professionally and financially. Your sincerity will help you attract individuals with something to offer in return. Your numbers are 3, 10, 18, 21, 29, 36, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A partnership will be in jeopardy. Situations that arise will force you into a make-it-or-break-it period that must be handled with care. You can enhance a relationship by addressing the problems promptly. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't get stressed over nothing. Instead, keep your thoughts a secret and you'll be able to work toward your goals without interference. The busier you are, the less chance there will be to get into trouble with someone you deal with regularly. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Move forward regardless of what others do and you will meet someone who shares your interests. As long as you follow your heart and refrain from overreacting, you will maintain your status quo and leave a good impression. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't confuse love with friendship. Be clear about what someone wants or expects from you before you make any promises. You may not like change but, if something isn't working, don't linger over what needs to be altered. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't settle for less when you want so much more. Plan a trip that will benefit you personally, professionally or educationally. You need to shake up your world. Spark your enthusiasm by taking on something you find challenging. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Personal evaluation will help you understand what's overdue and needed in your life in order to improve your friendships, your home or your finances. Don't be afraid to spend money if there is potential for a return. Investing in your talent will bring rewards. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Satisfy your curiosity, try new things and make new acquaintances. The possibilities are endless if you get out and get busy with people, places and things that will motivate and inspire you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Let go of the past and the people and things that are holding you back. Grudges and revenge are a waste of time. Free your mind—engage in the things that promote creativity, not fear. Positive thoughts can alter the way you live your life. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You will face opposition if you are pushy. Unexpected changes at home will leave you second-guessing what to do next. Focus on nurturing the relationships you cherish before it's too late. Put home and family first, not your work. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): If someone tries to push you into something, it's not a crime to back away. Look back and you will know through your past experiences what's required of you now. It's time to protect your heart and your assets by making personal and domestic changes. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Pick up more knowledge or skills that will help you earn more money. Use your charm to help you advance. A serious plan of attack will be all that's required to get ahead. Don't hold back when you have so much to gain. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take a look at the goals you have yet to accomplish. Take a new approach to old ideas. Fulfilling your dreams will have a huge effect on the way you advance in the future. Keep your friends close and your enemies closer. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, outspoken, sincere and sentimental. You have a willingness to help others. You stand up for your beliefs.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6	8		4					
7				1				
			3			1		
9		7		6				
	6						1	
				9		4		3
		4			3			
				7				9
					8		7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	5	9	8	2	3	4	7	6
8	3	7	1	6	4	9	2	5
4	6	2	7	5	9	8	1	3
7	1	5	3	4	6	2	8	9
9	2	3	5	1	8	7	6	4
6	4	8	9	7	2	5	3	1
5	7	6	2	9	1	3	4	8
3	9	4	6	8	7	1	5	2
2	8	1	4	3	5	6	9	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/18

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GAMMA-RAY BURSTS Solution: 7 letters

P	P	D	E	T	A	M	I	L	L	O	C	O	F	E
T	H	G	I	R	B	R	A	N	D	O	M	I	I	N
E	Y	E	N	S	O	L	A	R	M	M	E	D	R	C
L	S	G	N	I	T	S	Y	E	U	R	M	A	E	O
O	I	G	R	O	D	A	T	T	C	G	Y	R	B	U
I	C	A	A	E	M	N	N	E	H	S	N	A	A	N
V	S	L	F	M	N	E	I	C	L	G	R	O	L	T
A	U	A	C	T	M	E	N	L	E	L	I	A	L	E
R	D	X	O	O	E	A	A	A	B	T	A	M	T	R
T	D	Y	M	P	S	R	H	T	G	N	E	R	T	S
L	E	S	S	S	T	M	G	R	A	E	L	C	U	N
U	N	I	E	C	H	I	I	L	(H)	V	P	A	T	H
V	V	I	E	W	S	O	C	C	O	(E)	C	R	O	F
E	K	P	H	O	T	O	C	A	A	W	(A)	T	A	D
S	S	E	C	O	N	D	S	K	L	S	E	(T)	A	R

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 3/19

Afterglow, Blinding, Bright, Collimated, Comet, Cosmic, Data, Distance, Encounters, Energy, Event, Fierce, Fireball, Force, Galaxy, Gamma, Heat, Long, Mighty, Momentum, Nuclear, Optical, Path, Peak, Phenomena, Photo, Physics, Radio, Random, Rates, Rays, Seconds, Shock, Skies, Solar, Spectra, Stars, Stellar, Strength, Sudden, Ultraviolet, Views

Yesterday's Answer: Grassroots

SALE: The topics of 'Wonderword for Kids' appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $25.00
Call: 233-9889, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

FOR LEASE-PROPERTY

Short or long term, property located in Garapan, great place for residencial or business. Please call 285-0018 or 287-2453

WHATZIT Solution:
Ships that pass in the night

Marianas Maid Services

Are you overwhelmed at work?
Has taking care of your kids and the housework become a burden?

LET US MAKE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE

*****SPARKLE*****

Cleaning services starting as low as $40 per cleaning.
All equipment and cleaning supplies provided.

All our staff has been hand picked and are reliable.

Ironing, Laundry, Window washing and many other services available.

Contact Julie at 287-6542 to schedule an appointment.

NEW GIG DISCO & BOSSANO BAR

is looking for...

- DJ
- BOUNCER
- WAITRESS
- BARTENDER
- COOK

For Part Time or Full Time

Please contact 234-5050 for more Details.

FOR SALE

CONSTRUCTION CO. & RESTAURANT
GOOD RECORD
Please call 483-1123

OFFICE FURNITURE

Office Desks, Chairs, Shelves and Drawers.

Available for inspection anytime

Please submit your bids via the following:
Email: rowena@bccnmi.com
Fax: 322-2323
Contact: 322-2222
for details

SAIPAN LAULAU DEVELOPMENT INC.
dba LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT

LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT

has the following vacancy positions:

(1) PURCHASING at least four years experience	Closing date Friday March 19, 2010
(1) HVAC Technician at four years experience	Closing date Monday March 19, 2010
(1) Korean Cuisine Cook four years expeirence	Closing date Monday March 29, 2010
(1) Korean Guest Relation "Concierge"	Closing date Monday March 29, 2010

Please submit your resume and employment application form available at LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE.

PMB 1020 PPP P.O. BOX 10000 SAIPAN, MP 96950

We are an EQUAL EMPLOYMENT EMPLOYER.

Holy Angel Child Care Center
"Together, We Build our Children's Future"

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

IF YOU ARE…BSEd graduate! Major in Elementary Education is a plus. Well-Trained and experienced in handling Pre-Schoolers and After School students, or Equivalent, YOU'RE IN!

For details please call tel. no. 235-2907

8,430 Sq. Ft
Commercial Space
Previously Joeten Chalan Piao Mart
Beach Road, Chalan Piao
Residential Units available at 2nd & 3rd floor
For inquiries, Please call MMC at 235-8973
FOR LEASE/RENT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) is looking to hire individuals to fill the following full-time positions:

1. Administrator
2. Administrative Assistant
3. Records Assistant

Closing Date: March 26, 2010

A detailed copy describing the individual position is available at the MPLT Office located on the 1st Floor, Morgen Building in San Jose.

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resume and a cover letter to:
MPLT Trustees
Morgen Building, Suite #106
P.O. Box 501089
Saipan, MP 96950

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

LINER
RESIURC
FRIGATE
RETHGIERF
DESTROYER

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Distributed by Universal Uclick

Find today's solution in this section

KFC/TACO BELL

is looking for

COOK
FAST FOOD WORKERS

Must be willing to work on flexible schedule

Please apply in person at the 2nd Floor of Jones & Guerrero Building
(next to Aquarius Beach Hotel)
Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa
from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday

FOR THOSE ABOUT TO ROCK

WE RECRUIT YOU.

RETAIL STORE SUPERVISOR AND STAFF

Japanese speaking required.
Full time and part time positions available.
At least 2 years retail experience preferably with international clothing brands.

Hard Rock Cafe Saipan
PMB103 BOX10000 Saipan, MP96950
Please send resume by fax at 670-233-7624 or e-mail to
reynaldo@hardrocksaipan.com

Hard Rock CAFE

You Know Who You Are And Where To Work

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
322-6537/8 (Voice) 322-6449 (TTY) 322-6536 Fax
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950 website: www.ovrgov.net

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) and the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), will be conducting statewide public forums for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services and State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). You must come!

ROTA
March 23, 2010
Bay View Hotel - Lanai
5:30-7:30pm

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the public forums, please contact the OVR Council Liaison Magin Iginoef at least 2 days before the scheduled forums. Copies of the plans can be obtained and accessed at www.ovrgov.net and at Navy Hill Bldg N2.

Publication of this notice is paid for with federal funds made possible by RSA Grant #H126A050078 of the United States Department of Education. (OSERS)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2371 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP10-GOV-082

PREPARATION of ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
A Site Location and Conceptual Design of a Solid Waste Transfer Station on Tinian

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide the Environmental Assessment (EA) Report for the Tinian Tranfer Station to be located on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The complete Scope of Work for the EA services required will be available on Friday, March 12, 2010, at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan CNMI. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (US $50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill. A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held at the Governor's Conference Room, Capitol Hill at 1:30 PM,Wednesday, March 31, 2010 (Saipan local time). Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. N. Stanley Good, CIP Project Manager, or faxed to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4 p.m., Saipan local time April 9, 2010.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and a Schedule of Completion, addressing the Scope of Work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified. Proposers shall also submit a statement of qualifications with resumes and experience for the responsible persons. The total proposal length shall not exceed thirty (30) pages in length. Note that a firm which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Relevant qualification and experience of the firm, personnel and staff - 50%
   Include sufficient information to identify previous experience and the effectiveness of proposer on similar projects. List, at minimum, all similar projects conducted in the previous five (5) years. As there are a number of disciplines required in provision of this service, a specific listing of proposed sub-contractors, and their roles, is required as a part of any submittal. The relevant qualifications of these sub-contractors shall be considered in the rating
2. Ability to commit resources to the project - 25%
   As the CNMI feels this project is time dependant, a specific description of how the proposer would meet the schedule and what resources would be committed to the project is required. Proposal shall identify assigned staff, their roles and time committed to the project.
3. Suggested Approach - 25%
   The proposer shall provide a description of the proposed approach that will be used to complete the environmental assessment. Information provided should establish the proposers familirity with requirements for completion of an EA and show the method and schedule for completion of these requirements.
4. Proposed Costs to perform the EA report work - 0%

Performance time for completion of the EA design is three hundred eight (308) calendar days (44 weeks) upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed to submission of the Final Report as described in the Scope of Work document. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Two Hundred Dollars (US$200.00) for each and every working day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked (3) firms. After a selection is made negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, will be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"RFP10- GOV-082, Environmental Assessment Report for the Tinian Transfer Station"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, April 14, 2010. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., Saipan local time, April 14, 2010, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, April 14, 2010, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than April 23, 2010 (Saipan local time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

This project is funded through grants from the United States Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) . Contract award is contingent upon approval from DOI.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation of Bid
PSS IFB 10-018

"Technology and Related Equipment for Kagman High School (KHS)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of **Technology and Related Equipment for Kagman High School.** The Scope of Work is available beginning March 12, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on die 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950.

Questions shall be in writing no later than March 19, 2010 addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer or e-mailed to the following address: **robert.florian@pss.cnmi.mp.**

Bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-018"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, ND 96950, no later than **March 26, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.,** at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Cavaliers clinch division outright

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James had 32 points, nine rebounds and nine assists as the Cleveland Cavaliers clinched consecutive outright Central Division championships and the third in team history, beating Indiana 99-94 on Wednesday night.

Cleveland (54-15) is the first team this season to clinch its division.

After Cleveland's 18-point lead was cut to one, James had six points, two blocks, two steals and an assist in the final 4 minutes, including a dunk behind his head after catching an alley-oop pass from Anderson Varejao. Troy Murphy had 19 points and 15 rebounds, and Roy Hibbert had 20 points for Indiana.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) shoots over Indiana Pacers' Brandon Rush in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 17, 2010, in Cleveland.

Mavericks 113, Bulls 106

At Dallas, Caron Butler scored 27 points, Dirk Nowitzki had 26, and J.J. Barea scored 10 straight when things tightened up in the fourth quarter for Dallas.

Dallas had three days off since ending a 13-game winning streak with a 34-point loss to New York. The Mavericks bounced back strong, making nearly 70 percent of their shots well into the third quarter, then let Chicago turn it into a game.

Dallas native Acie Law scored a season-high 22 points for the Bulls. Chicago, wearing green uniforms for St. Patrick's Day, lost its ninth straight.

Bobcats 100, Thunder 92

At Charlotte, Stephen Jackson scored 18 of his 20 points in the second half as the Bobcats rallied to beat Oklahoma City to give Michael Jordan a victory in his first game as Bobcats majority owner.

Hours after the NBA's Board of Governors approved Jordan's $275 million purchase, he watched his team stage a dramatic recovery from a horrible start.

Stephen Graham matched a career high with 19 points filling in for the injured Gerald Wallace, and the Bobcats won for the seventh time in eight games.

Kevin Durant had 26 points and 10 rebounds for the Thunder.

Rockets 107, Grizzlies 94

At Houston, Aaron Brooks set a Houston record by hitting seven 3-pointers without a miss and scored 31 points as Houston snapped Memphis' seven-game road winning streak.

Luis Scola scored 20 points, and Kevin Martin added 18 for the Rockets, who moved into ninth place in the Western Conference standings—a half-game ahead of Memphis. Houston has won four straight, its longest streak of the season.

Zach Randolph had 30 points and 15 rebounds for the Grizzlies.

Magic 110, Spurs 84

At Orlando, Vince Carter had 24 points and eight assists as the Orlando Magic smothered San Antonio star Tim Duncan.

Duncan had two points and was 1 for 10 from the field in the worst shooting percentage game of his career.

Rashard Lewis finished with 20 points to help the Magic win for the ninth time in 10 games. Richard Jefferson had 20 points for San Antonio.

Celtics 109, Knicks 97

At Boston, Paul Pierce scored 29 points, Kevin Garnett had 22 and Boston cruised to its third straight lopsided victory at home.

The Celtics led 32-19 after the first quarter, 68-49 at halftime and 92-69 after the third. Pierce's basket midway through the third quarter gave Boston its biggest lead, 81-54. David Lee led New York with 29 points.

Jazz 122, Timberwolves 100

At Salt Lake City, Carlos Boozer had 19 points and 11 rebounds as Utah kept pace in the Western Conference.

Kyle Korver added a season-high 20 points on his 29th birthday to help the Jazz extend Minnesota's losing streak to 11.

The Jazz stayed within two games of Denver for the Northwest Division lead and Dallas for the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference with 14 games remaining.

Raptors 106, Hawks 105

At Toronto, Chris Bosh scored with 2.1 seconds left as Toronto beat Atlanta to end a five-game losing streak.

Bosh was 6 of 19 from the field and finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds. He made a second-quarter layup to become the first player in franchise history to reach the 10,000-point plateau. Andrea Bargnani had 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Raptors, 2-10 in their last 12 games. Jamal Crawford had a season-high 33 points for the Hawks, who had won four straight and 10 of their last 13.

Warriors 131, Hornets 121

At Oakland, California, Monta Ellis had 28 points and equaled his career high with 13 assists, and Anthony Tolliver had a career-high 30 points as Golden State overcame a 21-point deficit to beat New Orleans.

Reggie Williams added 22 points for the Warriors, 18 when Golden State tied a team record with nine 3-pointers in the fourth quarter. Williams had four of them, and Devean George added two. David West had 36 points and 15 rebounds for New Orleans, which lost for the eighth time in its last nine road games.

76ers 108, Nets 97

At Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala scored 20 points, Jrue Holiday added 19 points, seven rebounds and seven assists to help Philadelphia snap a five-game losing streak.

Chris Douglas-Roberts led New Jersey with 23 points. At 7-61, the Nets are in danger of breaking the 1972-73 76ers' record for fewest victories (9-73).

Clippers 101, Bucks 93

At Los Angeles, Chris Kaman had 20 points and seven rebounds, and Drew Gooden added 16 points and 11 rebounds as Los Angeles snapped an eight-game losing streak.

Brandon Jennings had 21 points for Milwaukee. The Bucks had won six straight games and 12 of their previous 13.

Jordan's bid for Bobcats approved by NBA board

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Michael Jordan became a basketball star at North Carolina. Now he'll try to turn around the state's money-losing NBA team by becoming the first ex-player to be a majority owner in the league.

The NBA's Board of Governors on Wednesday unanimously approved Jordan's $275 million bid to buy the Charlotte Bobcats from Bob Johnson. Jordan will immediately take over the team after functioning as a minority investor with the final say on basketball decisions since 2006.

"Purchasing the Bobcats is the culmination of my post-playing career goal of becoming the majority owner of an NBA franchise," Jordan said in a statement. "I am especially pleased to have the opportunity to build a winning team in my home state of North Carolina.

"I plan to make this franchise an organization that Charlotte can be proud of, and I am committed to doing all that I can to achieve this goal."

The six-time NBA champion and five-time league MVP will be charged with turning around the fortunes of the 6-year-old Bobcats, who are on pace to lose about $30 million this season because of sluggish ticket and sponsorship sales.

The 47-year-old Jordan, who will assume about $150 million in debt in the deal, becomes the second black majority owner of a major pro sports team. He replaces the first in Johnson, who paid $300 million for the expansion franchise, but lost tens of millions annually and saw the value of the team decline as Charlotte fans struggled to warm to the NBA again after the Hornets left for New Orleans in 2002.

Johnson won't completely end his relationship with the team. A spokeswoman for Johnson said he'll be a minority investor in Jordan's ownership group.

"The best decision I made since acquiring the Bobcats was to convince my friend Michael to become an investor in the Bobcats and to appoint him as managing member of basketball operations," Johnson said in a statement. "As the new majority owner of the Bobcats, his dedication will be stronger now more than ever."

Commissioner David Stern predicted last week the deal would be easily approved by the league's owners. Stern said last week that background and financial checks on Jordan produced nothing that would stop the deal, and expressed optimism Jordan's iconic status in this area will boost the franchise.

AP

In this Jan. 9, 2010, file photo, Charlotte Bobcats managing partner Michael Jordan, left, talks with player Stephen Jackson during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Memphis Grizzlies in Charlotte, N.C.

Jordan grew up in Wilmington, N.C., and led North Carolina to an NCAA title with a last-second shot before starring with the Chicago Bulls. Jordan briefly ran the Wizards basketball operations and returned as a player with Washington before being fired from his management role in 2003.

"We are pleased that Michael Jordan's purchase of majority ownership of the Bobcats was approved by the NBA's Board of Governors and closed in such a smooth and expeditious fashion," Stern said. "We look forward to the continued growth of the Bobcats, on and off the court, under his leadership."

The Bobcats (35-32) won their first game with Jordan in charge. Sitting courtside near the Charlotte bench on Wednesday night, Jordan watched the Bobcats rally to beat Oklahoma City 100-92 to maintain their hold on sixth place in the Eastern Conference. Team officials hope a playoff appearance after Jordan takes control will boost interest in the franchise, which plays in a 5-year-old downtown arena.

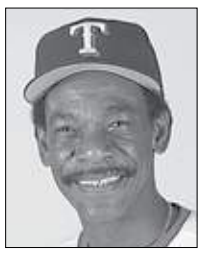
"While there is still plenty of work to do both on and off the floor, our attendance, television ratings, corporate support and on-court performance are headed in the right direction," Bobcats president Fred Whitfield said. "That trend will only continue as Michael transitions into all facets of our business."

Jordan, who has declined interview requests since striking a deal to buy the team on Feb. 26, is scheduled to hold a news conference on Thursday night.

Texas manager tested positive for cocaine in 2009

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP)—Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington admitted he made a "huge mistake" when he used cocaine and failed a Major League Baseball drug test last season.

In his first public acknowledgment, Washington apologized Wednesday for his behavior, eight months after he told Rangers president Nolan Ryan, who turned down the manager's offer to resign.


Washington

"I made a huge mistake and it almost caused me to lose everything I have worked for all of my life," Washington said at a news conference Wednesday. "I am not here to make excuses. There are none."

Washington said he used cocaine only once and called it "stupid" and "shameful."

The failed test first was reported by SI.com.

Washington said he told the commissioner's office and Rangers officials about using cocaine before he had a routine drug test.

"He came forward and said he would resign," Ryan said. "He understood the consequences. We had a lot of discussions and a lot of soul-searching on it."

"He stood up to it. We felt like he was sincere and forthright," he said. "We are very disappointed by this. We are upset we were put in this position."

Washington met with his players earlier in the day and told them about testing positive in July.

"He was very emotional, you could tell that he's a broken man from this one bad choice he made," Texas star Josh Hamilton said.

Hamilton has a long history of drug abuse and was suspended for the 2004 season when he was in the minors for Tampa Bay. The All-Star outfielder is the most prominent player in the last decade to be disciplined for a so-called recreational drug.

Hamilton has been outspoken about his crack cocaine habit. He said there were no parallels between his problems and Washington's admission of one-time use.

"I was addicted to drugs. All I cared about was getting more and using more drugs. I didn't care who I hurt," Hamilton said. "This was something of a weak moment, a decision of choice ... Our stories are nothing alike. The fact is he made a mistake. He learned from it very quickly. I made a mistake a few too many times and didn't learn from it."

Hamilton said he could understand how a 57-year-old man could use the drug only once.

"You either like it or you don't like it. Either you do it once or you do it more than once," Hamilton said. "That's the way it is. I know people from my past that have done it once with me and have not liked, have not cared for it."

NFL to examine 2 possessions in playoffs OT

NEW YORK (AP)—NFL owners will vote next week whether to allow each team a possession in overtime in the playoffs if the team winning the OT coin toss kicks a field goal on the first series.

Previously, the game would end whenever either side scores, as happened in the NFC championship game in January, with New Orleans beating Minnesota on Garrett Hartley's kick. But NFL competition committee chairman Rich McKay says a trend has developed showing too strong an advantage for teams winning the coin toss to start overtime.

If the team that falls behind by three points on the first series also kicks a field goal, then the game would continue under current sudden death rules.

The proposal is only for the postseason.

"Statistically, it is pretty clear there has been a change," McKay said. "When sudden death was put in for 1974, it clearly worked very well and was a good system. It brought excitement and effectively broke ties. From '74-'93 you had a 50-50 (breakdown) in who would win between those who won toss and who lost the toss.

"Changes occurred over time, and the numbers have changed to 59.8 percent winning the coin toss and winning the game. The team that loses the coin toss wins 38.5 percent.

"We are trying to put in a system that emphasizes more skill and strategy as opposed to the randomness of the coin flip."

McKay credited the advancements in field goal accuracy and skills of return teams for the hefty switch in statistics. The competition committee found that since 1994, when the kickoff was moved back 5 yards to the 30, teams winning the OT coin toss won 34.4 percent of the games on the first series. They kicked field goals 26.2 percent of those times, an increase from 17.9 percent in 15 years.

"I would say this is something that's been on our radar for a number of years and been talked about a lot," he said. "In the last four or five years, we have not proposed anything because we thought if there weren't enough votes (among the 32 owners), we should not propose it. This year, the statistics are so compelling we need to get the discussion going."

Cliff Lee suspended for 1st 5 games of season

NEW YORK (AP)—Seattle pitcher Cliff Lee was suspended Wednesday for the first five games of the regular season for throwing over the head of a hitter, possibly delaying his highly anticipated debut with the Mariners.

Lee also was fined by Major League Baseball vice president of discipline Bob Watson.

The former AL Cy Young winner was ejected from Monday's exhibition game against Arizona after throwing inside to Chris Snyder, then zipping a fastball over his helmet.

Lee declined comment Wednesday through a team spokesman.

"I'm sure Cliff's going to appeal it, so we'll see where it takes us," Mariners general manager Jack Zduriencik.

If the players' union appeals on Lee's behalf, the penalty would be delayed until after a hearing and a decision.

"I don't know if I was really surprised," said Mariners manager Don Wakamatsu. "Major League Baseball, over the last couple of years, has really been bearing down on issues like this. I knew we'd hear something. I'm not the one who decides who gets suspended and the duration, but I figured something was coming."

The Mariners acquired Lee from Philadelphia last December in a four-team, nine-player trade that also sent Toronto ace Roy Halladay to the Phillies. Lee was dealt to the Phillies last July from Cleveland, and became a postseason star.

Seattle was eager to pair Lee with ace Felix Hernandez at the top of the rotation. The Mariners open the season April 5 at Oakland.

"We'd like to get a definitive on this sooner than later so that we can get set," Zduriencik said. "It's certainly in everyone's best interest—the ballclub, the other pitchers and Cliff, for that matter."

Suspensions that result from incidents in spring training have occurred in the past, although they are rare. In 2008, three players were suspended after the New York Yankees and Tampa Bay brawled.

NEW ARRIVALS!
APPLIANCES
Chest Freezers
As low as $15.95/week 15 Cu.Ft.
As low as $11.95/week 7 Cu.Ft.
As low as $9.95/week 5 Cu.Ft.
Airconditions Window Type
As low as $11.95/week 8,000 BTU
As low as $14.95/week 12,000 BTU
This is a rent to own transaction. You do not own the product until all rental payments are made or purchase is made. See store for HUGE selection!
DIAL Rent-to-Own
90 DAYS SAME AS CASH!
NO CREDIT CHECKS!
NO REPAIR BILLS!
NO LONG TERM OBLIGATIONS!
AGANA Marine Corps Dr. 477-RENT Reserved Parking in Rear
DEDEDO Calvo's Center 637-RENT Behind Johndel's Supermarket
SAIPAN Middle Road 234-RENT Next to Subway

Mobil pulls off upset over Aqua

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mobil capitalized on Aqua Resort Club's two errors in the stretch to escape with an 84-81 win during their game in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League with Aqua Resort Club on Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

It was a morale-boosting win for Mobil, which came from two straight losses before catching a big fish in Aqua.

Aqua Resort was hoping for its sixth win in seven games and had a good chance of doing so when it had the lead, 81-77, entering the final two-minute mark after Glenn Aquino canned a difficult turnaround jumper. Mobil missed on the other end, allowing Ziddy Johanes to sprint for a fastbreak play, but he faltered too.

Jun Estolas answered with a layup, moving Mobil within two, 79-81, with less than a minute left in the match.

In Aqua Resort's next play, Pedro Lizama drove to the middle, but Estolas tapped the ball away and when Mobil completed the steal, Jun Galzote went up for a layup to tie the match, 81-all.

With 32 seconds left in the match, Aquino wasted a few seconds before attacking Mobil's defense. However, he was still a few steps away from the basket and when he made his turn on top of the key near the free throw line, he fumbled and lost the ball.

Estolas picked up the leather, went for a fastbreak layup and missed, but drew a foul. Estolas made his first charity, giving Mobil the lead, 82-81, with 18 seconds remaining on the clock. He missed the second one and Galzote, Jessie Mina, and Lizama battled for the rebound, but the ball headed toward the left sideline with Estolas going at the right place to pick up the leather.

With Mobil having possession and the clock winding down, Johanes was forced to foul Manolo Manalo, who then drilled two free throws, upping Mobil's lead to three, 84-81, 12 ticks to go in the game.

Mobil had fouls to give and used it against Lizama with nine seconds remaining. In Aqua Resort's ensuing play, Lizama instead of pulling up for a game-tying trey when he was partially left open from the right key, opted to move closer for a long two-pointer and missed. Manalo collared the offensive rebound and hung on to the ball as timed expired, sealing Mobil's come-from-behind win.

Aqua Resort led by as much as 14 points in the second quarter before Estolas, Manalo, and Gyles Ruluked slowly brought Mobil back into game and steal the win in the last 18 seconds of the match.

In the second game, World Resort/Advance recovered from an 84-96 loss to Micronesian Brokers, Inc. after beating Shirley's 86-78.

World Resort led from start to finish after getting good games from Dennis Vinas, James Wabinga, and Mike Olaitiman. Vinas, who missed a lot of shot in the fourth quarter against MBI, tallied 24 points, making nine in the final canto against Shirley's. Wabinga added 15, more than doubling his seven-point output against MBI, while Olaitiman chipped in 11, six more from his anemic production in the previous game.

World Resort improved to a 6-1 mark and moved up to second place behind the undefeated MBI (7-0). Shirley's dropped to a 4-3 slate and had its two-game winning run snapped.

First Game

World Resort/Advance 86 – Vinas 24, Wabinga 15, Olaitiman 11, Abuel 10, Tabamo 10, Ritual 8, Navarro 6, Palma 2.

Shirley's 78 – Peredo 36, Opone 19, Guiab 13, Sedillo 10, Pablo 2, Laxa 2, Nicdao 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-18, 43-39, 63-55, 86-78.

Second Game

Mobil 84 – Ruluked 25, Manalo 20, Estolas 19, Galzote 10, Ajoste 10, Isip 2.

Aqua 81 – Gapor 18, Aquino 16, Johanes 16, Lizama 15, Mina 9, Torres 4, Mi. Achas 3.

Scoring by quarters: 16-27, 39-48, 62-69, 84-81.

Jon Sakovich lessons to start March 23

Seoul Olympian Jon Sakovich will return to Saipan next week and will hold a three-day swim clinic at the American Memorial Park and Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The son of NMASA Hall of Fame inductees and Saipan Swim Club pioneers Bill and Jean Sakovich, Jon is currently the senior assistant swim coach for the Bolles School and Bolles Sharks in Jacksonville, Florida.

His first clinic will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 7pm at the AMP room. He is expected to talk to students and members of the local sports community.

The clinics at the Marpi pool starts the next day, March 24, from 12pm to 1:30pm and will be geared toward masters swimmers and triathletes.

The third and last clinic will be on Thursday, March 25, from 12pm to 2pm also at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Jon's coaching prowess recently gave him a Gold Medal Club Excellence Award from the USA Swimming.

His club has also produced a swimmer who won first place at the 2009 winter Junior Nationals Men, first place at the 2009 Winter Junior Nationals Combined, and second place at the 2009 Winter Junior Nationals Women.

Jon also gave Bolles School more than 20 state high school titles in the Florida High School Athletic Association. At one time or another, he also mentored 10 swimmers who competed in the 2009 FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

FIVE

From Page 36

will have his second event of the day in the 50mbackstroke swim. Tsunami Saipan swimmers' last competition will be the 50m breastroke race with Tan, Toda, and Yanai entered in the event.

The 2010 edition of the annual tournament will be Kensuke Kimura's second, while the four other are first-timers. Kensuke Kimura was with Kai Staal when he competed in the same tournament last year.

Staal clocked in at 32.66 seconds in the 50m breaststroke race to win the silver medal in the 13 to 14 age group last year. He then gained his second medal in the 50m freestyle event after placing third in the finals with a time of 25.63 seconds.

Kensuke Kimura competed in three events in the Tokyo Junior Sprint last year and failed to advance to the finals. However, this year Hiro Kimura believed his son and Yanai have a good chance of making it to the finals.

Four of the five Tsunami swimmers joining the Japan meet are age-group record holders in the CNMI.

Kensuke Kimura owns records in 12 events: 400m freestyle and 50m breaststroke (U8), 200m, 400m, and 800m freestyle and 200m breaststroke (9-10), 400m, 800m, and 1,500m freestyle, 200m backstroke, 200m breastroke, and 400m individual medley (11-12).

Yanai holds records in the 500m and 100m freestyle, 50m and 100m breaststroke, and 50m,100m, and 200m butterfly in the boys' 9 to 10 age group.

Tan and Toda have three records apiece in their names. Tan's record-breaking swims were in the 50m, 100m, and 200m breaststroke in the girls' 9 to 10 age group, while Toda owns marks in the 100m and 200m freestyle and 100m breaststroke in the boys' 8-and-under age group.

SWEEP

From Page 36

John Hung drilled the winning goal for Tan Holdings FC-2's.

Matansa FC 5, MP United-White 3

Still in the boys U14 division game, Matansa FC played against MP United-White in the first game on Pitch 1 and won, 5-3.

Matansa drew two goals from Sean Perez and one each from William Camacho, Yoshi Mafnas, and Julian Pellegrino to hand MP United-White its second loss in as many games.

Scoring for MP United-White in a losing cause were Dakota Hill, Aaron Lee, and Jordan Butcher.

MP United-Blue 3, Paire FC-Red 1

In the second game on Pitch 1, MP United-Blue notched its second straight win after beating Paire FC-Red 1, 3-1.

Angelo Jones tallied two goals, while Jake Lee drilled one, lifting MP United-Blue to the lead in the eight-team league.

Paire FC-Red dropped to a 1-0-1 slate after scoring only one goal, courtesy of Won Jun Kim.

GIRLS U14
Matansa 2, Paire 0

A pair of goals from Thalia Hideo powered Matansa FC to a 2-0 victory over Paire FC in the girls U14 division competition, which was also played at Hopwood.

Matansa now has two wins and holds the lead in the four-team league.

MP United 4, Tan Holdings 0

The other game in the girls U14 also resulted in a shutout with MP United whipping Tan Holdings, 4-0.

Amy Taylor duplicated Hideo's feat in the first game, as the former knocked down two goals, too, to give MP United its first win. MP United's two other goals came from Lou Angeline Gascon and Celeste Moore.

BOYS U18
MP United 3, Independents 2

Bo Barry logged two goals to lead MP United to a close 3-2 victory over Independents FC in the boys U18 division game played at the CPA Field.

The win was first for MP United, which also drew a goal from Jin Jan Yoo.

Yong Park and Charles McEntee recorded one goal apiece for IFC, which dropped to a 1-0-1 slate.

Paire 2, Matansa 1

In the other boys U8 game, Paire topped Matansa, 2-1, to claim the solo lead in the four-team league.

Tim Tawanpiy and Vince Palacios made one goal apiece for Paire to give the team a 2-0 record. Clay McCullough-Stearns tallied the lone goal for Matansa, which absorbed its second loss in as many games.

Meanwhile, the second meeting between Paire FC and Matansa FC in the girls U18 ended in a 0-0 draw.

OBARA

From Page 36

Named for Taga, a legendary chief of the ancient Chamorros, the Tagaman Triathlon was established by the Marianas Visitors Authority in 1988 and is the longest running race in the western Pacific.

Registration deadline to enter the Tagaman Triathlon is today, March 19. The registration fee for an individual is $150 and for a team it is $200.

For more information, contact MVA's Frank Tudela at ftudela@mymarianas.com or 664-3200.

TRUE

From Page 36

As awe-inspiring as these triathletes may be for their perseverance, they cannot compare to the epic story of Jan Baalsrud. Few people can. Not that he wanted it to happen. Or that others would want to duplicate it.

In 1943 the young Norwegian was aboard a boat above the Arctic Circle fighting Nazis when he was shelled. All of his mates were killed or captured but he swam to safety. Here's his abbreviated tale.

Climbs up icy mountain chased by 50 Nazis, kills one, loses a sock and boot, bleeds from toe shot off leaving bloody trail in the snow, swims to two other islands in frigid water, lies exhausted on beach until rescued by two local girls, gets clothed and fed before being rowed to another island, hikes across the mountain in 24-, 13-, and 28-hour walks, gets rowed by 72-year-old man 10 miles to land, skis through heavy snow storms, starts an avalanche, falls 300 feet, ruins his skis, gets concussion buried and blinded by snow, climbs out, wanders four days hallucinating, finds friendly help in a cottage, hides in solitude separated from help by a storm for a week without food while gangrene set in his legs, gets carried on a sled up a mountain 3,000 feet during a snow storm, stays in a hole in the ice until help comes, spends 20 days cramped inside a sleeping bag, cuts off the rest of his toes with his knife to save the rest of his feet, attempts suicide fearing for his comrades, and then gets dragged to Sweden while being shot at by Germans.

By comparison the Tagaman is velvet cake.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	43	24	.642	–
Toronto	33	33	.500	9 1/2
New York	24	44	.353	19 1/2
Philadelphia	24	44	.353	19 1/2
New Jersey	7	61	.103	36 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	48	21	.696	–
Atlanta	43	24	.642	4
Charlotte	35	32	.522	12
Miami	35	33	.515	12 1/2
Washington	21	45	.318	25 1/2

Central Division

y-Cleveland	54	15	.783	–
Milwaukee	36	30	.545	16 1/2
Chicago	31	36	.463	22
Detroit	23	45	.338	30 1/2
Indiana	22	46	.324	31 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	46	22	.676	–
San Antonio	40	26	.606	5
Houston	35	31	.530	10
Memphis	36	33	.522	10 1/2
New Orleans	33	36	.478	13 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	46	22	.676	–
Utah	44	24	.647	2
Oklahoma City	41	25	.621	4
Portland	41	28	.594	5 1/2
Minnesota	14	55	.203	32 1/2

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Lakers	50	18	.735	–
Phoenix	42	26	.618	8
L.A. Clippers	26	43	.377	24 1/2
Sacramento	23	45	.338	27
Golden State	19	48	.284	30 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games
Charlotte 100, Oklahoma City 92
Cleveland 99, Indiana 94
Toronto 106, Atlanta 105
Philadelphia 108, New Jersey 97
Boston 109, New York 97
Orlando 110, San Antonio 84
Dallas 113, Chicago 106
Houston 107, Memphis 94
Utah 122, Minnesota 100
Golden State 131, New Orleans 121
L.A. Clippers 101, Milwaukee 93

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIFA YOUTH STANDINGS

Boys U14

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
MP United-Blue	2	2	0	0	12	2	+10	6
Tan Holdings FC-1	2	1	1	0	3	1	+2	4
Tan Holdings FC-2	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
Matansa FC	1	1	0	0	5	3	2	3
Paire FC-Red	2	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3
Paire FC-Black	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Independent FC	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0
MP United-White	2	0	0	2	4	14	-10	0

Girls U14

Matansa FC	2	2	0	0	7	0	7	6
MP United FC	2	1	0	1	4	5	-1	3
Tan Holdings FC	2	1	0	1	0	4	-4	3
Paire FC	2	0	0	2	0	2	-2	0

Boys U18

Paire FC	2	2	0	0	8	3	+5	6
Independent FC	2	1	0	1	2	3	-+1	3
MP United FC	2	1	0	1	5	8	-3	3
Matansa FC	2	0	0	2	1	2	-1	0

Girls U18

Matansa FC	2	1	0	0	4	0	4	3
Paire FC	2	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Natibu	13	0
Man Amigos	14	1
Island Rebels	10	1
SaiPal	10	3
San Roque	9	2
Chura	9	3
Ur Balls	9	4
Freedom Air Flyers	8	4
Hitz	7	6
6-Pack	6	6
Calikano-Falcons	7	7
X-Terminators	7	7
Go For Broke	5	9
Blazers	4	9
Lancheros	3	9
Red Eye	3	10
G-Ballers	3	10
Berdax	2	8
Ramblers	3	11
Team Familia	1	11
Team Fuegu	1	12

Arago, Omori top badminton mini tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Badminton Association opened its 2010 season with a mini badminton tournament last week at the REM Centre in Gualo Rai.

Sixteen pairs joined NMBA's initial offering with the tandem of Ferdie Arago and Anna Rose Omori surviving the single-elimination tournament to win the championship.

Omori and Arago clinched the title after beating Rey Bulaon and Angie Ito in the finals in straight sets, 21-16, 21-18.

In the semifinals, Arago and Omori were paired against the duo of Jerry Tan and Marlene Peraja and also won in straight sets, 21-17, 21-18, to book the first finals berth. The second finals seat went to the tandem of Bulaon and Ito, who downed Noli Santos and Annette Ta in the other Final Four pairing, 21-12, 21-17.

Ta and Santos advanced to the semifinals after thwarting Hapi Gabriel and Annette Quiambao in two sets, 21-15, 21-18. Bulaon and Ito followed suit after edging Macoi Aguda and Clarissa David, 21-14, 21-17. Arago and Omori recorded the third straight set win in the quarterfinals after slipping past Heo In Sook and Dick Guinto, 21-17, 21-18.

The only quarterfinals match that went the distance featured the pair of Peraja and Tan going up against Daniel Macario and Elna Curate. Macario and Curate drew first blood, 21-16, but failed to wrap up the match in their favor when Tan and Pereja swept the last two sets, 21-14, 21-4.

Other pairs that joined the mini tournament held on March 13 were Rob Harrell and Merlie Tolentino, Mario Diola and Babes Cielo, Gigi Zapanta and Andreau Galvez, Malou Malasarte and Roger Vales, Emily Vargas and Jorge Olanda, Jaja Samonte and Robert Reyes, Loida Ito and Manatsu Omori, and Efren Cacdac and Choi Hannah.

NMBA's first tournament was played a week after the group had its election. In the March 6 election, Tan was selected president. Other officers are Harrell, vice president; Tolentino, secretary; and Shirley Kim, treasurer. Named board members were Roger Vales, Jojo Savellano, Lito Mendoza, Puy Macario, Ariel Mariano, Zapanta, and Gabriel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Champions Ferdie Arago and Anna Rose Omoro pose with runners-up Angie Ito and Rey Bulaon after their finals game in NMBA's mini badminton tournament at the REM Centre in Gualo Rai last weekend.

Man Amigos keep top form, whip San Roque

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Man Amigos continued to live up to expectations as one of the teams to beat in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League, following a 15-6 win over San Roque on Wednesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The victory was Man Amigos' 14th in 15 games, keeping them in a close fight for the pennant with the league-leading and undefeated Natibu (13-0). San Roque dropped to a 9-3 mark, but remained at the top half of the team standings in the 21-squad league.

Man Amigos leaned on a seven-run top of the fourth to seize control of the match en route to a nine-run win.

The game was tied after three innings, 5-all, when Man Amigos scored three runs off San Roque's errors and four earned runs to take a 12-5 lead. San Roque never recovered from thereon, as Man Amigos' defense shut out the former in the next there innings before Dave Camacho scored off Manny Tenorio's single at the bottom of the seventh inning.

On offense, Peter Sablan only went 2-for-4 at bat, but made four RBIs.

Advance 17, Blazers 9

Right fielder John Taitano hit only 2-for-4 at the plate, but tallied five RBIs to lift Advance X-Terminators to a 17-9 triumph over the Blazers.

The X-Terminators improved to an even 7-7 record, three wins ahead of the Blazers, who absorbed their ninth loss in 13 games.

Poland Masaharu and John Cepeda added two RBIs each for Advance, which pulled off a come-from-behind win after shutting out the Blazers in the last five innings.

The Blazers had control of the match after the first two innings, scoring three runs in the first inning and six in the second. However, the Blazers were in disarray in the last five innings, failing to score a single run and allowing Advance to steal the win.

Go For Broke 14, Team Familia 4

Brandon Hocog homered twice and recorded four RBIs to power Go For Broke to a 14-4 win over Team Familia.

Brandon Hocog had extra hitter Alfred Hocog and center fielder Vincent Pangelinan helping him out on offense. Alfred went 3-for-4 at bat and scored two runs and three RBIs. Pangelinan contributed two RBIs on a 2-for-4 performance at bat.

On defense, Go For Broke silenced Team Familia in the first three innings before the latter broke into the scoreboard in the fourth inning. Team Familia scored three runs in the fourth inning, but failed to complete a comeback when it made only one run in the last two innings.

Jerry Ayuyu, seen here warming-up in one of Man Amigos's regular season games, went 3-for-4 at bat in their 15-6 win over San Roque during their match in the Chamolinian league on Wednesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Yuko Togawa clinches March title in CWGA tilt

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Yuko Togawa saved her best for last, firing a 1-over par 37 on the back fine en route to a one-stroke win in the CNMI Women's Golf Association's monthly tournament last Saturday on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Togawa started the tournament for the March title with a 4-over par 40, tying mother Noriko and Shiori Onoue after the first nine holes. However, after completing the 18 holes at the Kagman facility, the 6-handicapper Yuko found herself alone on top with a net score of 71.

The younger Togawa, who carded a gross 77, was one shot ahead of Kyung Ran Seo. The 18-handicapper Seo tallied a net 72, built on her scores of 46 and 44 on the front and back nines, respectively.

In third place and three strokes of the March winner was Bennet Seman, a 27-handicapper and shot a 52 on the front and 50 on the back for a gross 102 and net 75.

Noriko Togawa ended up in fourth place, as she only managed to duplicate her earlier score in the last nine holes. The older Togawa's scores of 40s had her posting a gross 80 and deducting her handicap of four, the lowest among the group, she finished with a net 76.

Lorraine Babauta and Seon Hee Jeong tied Noriko Togawa's net score, but the latter won the tiebreak. Babauta, a 10-handicapper and carded a 47 on the front and 39 on the back, dropped to fifth place. The 37-handicapper Jeong settled for six after drilling a 59 and 54 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 113.

Onoue failed to sustain her momentum in the last nine holes, recording a 43 for a net 77 and gross 83 to fall to eighth place.

Eleven other CWGA members joined the March tournament. They were Grace Wang (net 77), Lin Ching Wang (78), Margaret Tenorio (79), Terry Tudela (81), Eun Ae Chang (81), Terue Ukita (81), Kimiko Abe (82), Dolores Yamagishi (86), Sherlyn Jones (86), Kyung Anh Yang (86), Kim Yang 987), and Bobbie Guerrero (88).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in last Saturday's CWGA March tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort pose for a group photo before heading to the greens and fairways of the Kagman facility.

March roll-off Sunday and Monday

The 2010 Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes and Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes continues this Sunday, March 21, and Monday, March 22, at the Saipan Bowling Center in Oleai.

Sunday's roll-off begins at 3pm, while Monday's competition starts at 6pm. Registration starts 30 minutes prior to game time. Awarding ceremonies immediately follow the end of competition on Monday.

The competition is exclusive for members of the Saipan Bowling Association with participants limited to the first 60 entries for each day.

Members have the option to bowl on Sunday or Monday, or on both days, provided that the $15 entry fee is paid. Bowlers who did not bowl on Sunday will be given priority for the Monday shift. Only the higher score will count for the tournament. All participants have to pay the $15 SBA annual membership fee.

The champion is guaranteed $100 in prize money but it could go up to as much $150 depending on the number of participants. Women participants will only have separate prizes if there are at least 10 entries.

Youth bowlers (12 to 19 years old), meanwhile, will duke it out in the Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament in Day 1 of the monthly competition. Entry fee is $10 for the Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes.

Youth bowlers must also pay the annual SBA youth membership fee of $10 if they wish to qualify for the annual roll-off. The Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament aims to crown 12 monthly champions through the course of the year.

For early registration and payment, see or contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 or email zapanta@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

Cavaliers clinch division outright

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Five swimmers to join Tokyo Sprint

Toda

Yanai

Tan

Kimura

De Jesus

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Five Tsunami Saipan swimmers will leave for Japan this morning to compete in the 2010 Tokyo Junior Sprint at the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium.

Making it to the Japan trip are Kensuke Kimura, Angel Marie Tan, Angel De Jesus, Kaito Yanai, and Ryosei Toda. Selection of swimmers representing Tsunami Saipan to the tournament in Japan was made through qualifying times.

Tsunami SAIPAN

"We set up the qualifying time faster than the original because they will be up against a much higher level of competition in Japan," said Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, who will be accompanying the five swimmers to the tournament.

The Tokyo Junior Sprint is an age group competition for 15-and-under swimmers and will take place this weekend.

Tomorrow, all five Tsunami Saipan bets will compete in the 100m individual medley swim. The team's second event of the day will be the 50m freestyle swim with only Toda, Tan, and De Jesus plunging into the pool.

On Sunday, Yanai, Kensuke Kimura and de Jesus will compete in the 50m butterfly race. The younger Kimura

See FIVE on Page 34

Sweep for Tan Holdings FC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

Week 2 of the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Spring League was a good one for Tan Holdings Football Club, as it swept its assignments in the boys U14 division last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Tan Holdings FC-1 played in the first game on Pitch 2 and blanked Independents FC, 2-0. Michael Park scored the twin goals for the winning team moving Tan Holdings FC-1 to second place in the team standings with a 1-1-0 win-draw-loss record.

Also holding a 1-1-0 mark for a share of second place is Tan Holdings FC-2's, which edged Paire FC-Black in the second game on Pitch 2, 1-0.

See SWEEP on Page 34

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Two Tan Holdings FC-1 players chase the ball against an Independent FC striker during their game in the boys U14 division of the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Obara family takes on Tagaman

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

TAGAMAN 21st SAIPAN TAGAMAN TRIATHLON 2010

Kaike Triathlon's representatives to the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon is Japanese Olympic triathlete Takumi Obara and his wife Chie.

Takumi represented the Land of the Rising Sun in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia and finished in 21st place with a time of 1:50:29.95.

When not indulging in his favorite sport, Takumi serves as the health tourism producer of the Yonago City Tourism Bureau.

Chie is also a world class triathlete herself having participated in the Asian Tournament from 1993-1996 and at one time finished second in the circuit. She also took part in the 1995 ITU Triathlon World Cup Gagamori race placing 10th. Her World Championship record is 31st place.

A third member of the Obara family, 11-year-old Hokuto, meanwhile will take part in the Tagakids Triathlon. The Obaras live in Japan's Tottori Prefecture.

Organizers of the Kaike Triathlon have been sending their representatives to the Tagaman Triathlon the last five years.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Takumi Obara and his wife Chie smile for the camera just before competing in one of their races.

The Kaike Triathlon is the first triathlon held in Japan and began with 52 racers 29 years ago. Over time, the course has expanded to a 3-kilometer swim, 145-km bike, and 42.195-km run.

Taga Inc., organizers of the Tagaman Triathlon, has reciprocated Kaike Triathlon's gesture and had also been sending representatives to the Japan triathlon the past couple of years.

Last year, Saipan-based pro Mieko Carey placed fourth in the women's division of the grueling race with a time of nine hours, 47 minutes, and 43 seconds.

The 21st Tagaman Triathlon will be held this Saturday with the 2-km swim beginning at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. It will be followed by a 60-km bike and concludes with a 15-km run starting at Micro Beach.

See OBARA on Page 34

True grit

Tomorrow's Tagaman Triathlon is the third tough test, a triple trial, to tax those trained to transport themselves over terrain while trying to top a target in triumph. Ta-dah!

Sports is a microcosm of life, sliced and diced by rules to form a contest for fun and enjoyment in contrast to real life with its stark dangers and scary threats, where reality doesn't always follow the rules.

Swimming, biking, and running as fast as one can in a race is one thing. Doing it to escape death is something entirely different.

The Saipan Marathon (almost twice as long as Saipan itself), XTERRA Saipan Championship (bloodier this year than any Trench Warz), and Tagaman (Tagawoman and Tagakids too) will push bodies to their human physical and mental endurance limits.

While I admire those who can finish faster than others, it's those stragglers who take four, five, six hours who I find most intriguing because they refuse to quit despite not coming close to winning, simply surviving the ordeal more than vanquishing it.

See TRUE on Page 34

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2